



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AMONG

THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES (ECCAS),

THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

AND

THE GULF OF GUINEA COMMISSION (GGC)

ON

### MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

The Economic Community of Central African States, acting through its General Secretariat headquartered in Haut-de-Guegue District, P.M.B. 2112 Libreville, Republic of Gabon, hereinafter referred to as "ECCAS";

The Economic Community of West African States, acting through its Commission, with headquarters at 101, Yakubu Gowon Crescent Asokoro District P.M.B 401 Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, hereinafter referred to as "ECOWAS";

The Gulf of Guinea Commission, acting through its Executive Secretariat, with its headquarters at 43, 2 ANDAR, Rua Pereira Guileme Ingles, Luanda, Angola, hereafter referred to as "GGC";

In the presence of Heads of State and Government or their duly mandated representatives and bilateral and multilateral strategic partners;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

## PREAMBLE

**Mindful** of the Treaty establishing ECCAS dated 18 October 1983,

**Mindful** of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty of 24 July 1993 signed in Cotonou,

**Mindful** of the Treaty establishing the GGC of 3 July 2001, signed in Libreville,

**Mindful** of Regulation CMS/REG.1/02/12 of 17 February 2012 mandating the ECOWAS Commission to develop the regional maritime integrated strategy signed in Abuja,

**Considering** that the objective of the ECCAS is to promote and reinforce a harmonious cooperation and a balanced and self-sufficient development in every area of economic and social activity, to increase and to maintain economic stability, to reinforce the close and peaceful relations between member states and to contribute to the progress and the development of Africa,

**Considering** that the main objective of ECOWAS is to promote cooperation, integration and maintain regional stability in order to establish an economic and monetary union in West Africa,

**Considering** the provisions of the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) adopted by the first session of the Conference of the AU at Durban on 9 July 2002,

**Considering** also the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the area of Peace and Security between the AU, Regional Economic Communities and the regional mechanisms adopted on 28 June 2008,

**Considering** in addition the Luanda Declaration on Peace and Security in the Gulf of Guinea Region of 29 November 2012,

**Recalling** the relevant provisions of Resolutions 2018 of 31 October 2011 and 2039 of 29 February 2012 of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, calling for the development and implementation of regional, sub-regional and national strategies on maritime safety and security,

**Recalling** the relevant provisions of the UN Charter and the Constitutive Act of the AU,

**Conscious** of the fact that piracy, armed robbery and the other illegal activities perpetrated at sea in the maritime area of Central and West Africa, constitute an obstacle to regional integration and the sustainable economic development of their regions,

**Taking into account** the Declaration of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC on maritime safety and security in their common maritime domain signed in Yaoundé (Cameroon) on 25 June, 2013,

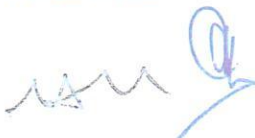
**Recalling** the objectives of the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM 2050 Strategy) adopted in Addis-Ababa on 6 December 2012,

**Determined** to strengthen cooperation and coordination of their activities, with a view to ensuring safety and security in the West and Central Africa maritime area,

**Having taken note of the recommendations** of the UN Evaluation Mission report on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea dated 24 November, 2011.

**Hereby agree as follows:**

## **CHAPTER I: DEFINITIONS, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**



## **Article 1: DEFINITIONS**

The terms and abbreviations below have been defined to aid understanding of this Memorandum. They include:

- "ECCAS": Economic Community of Central African States,
- "ECOWAS": Economic Community of West African States,
- "GGC": Gulf of Guinea Commission,
- "Maritime area": the maritime area of West and Central Africa,
- "Chief Executives": ECCAS Secretary General, ECOWAS Commission President and GGC Executive Secretary or their duly mandated representatives,
- "Parties or signatories": ECCAS, ECOWAS, GGC
- "Bilateral and multilateral strategic partners": technical and financial partners at the national and international levels, in accordance with this Agreement.
- "Regional Security Strategy and Maritime Security": maritime strategy developed by ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC.

## **Article 2: OBJECTIVES**

This Memorandum of Understanding is established in order to achieve better cooperation among the regional ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC maritime centres. The cooperation shall seek to promote synergy through the pooling and interoperability of Community resources.

To this end, it shall have the following specific objectives:

- a. coordination and implementation of joint activities,
- b. promotion of close partnership among the Parties,
- c. regular exchange of information and experience sharing,
- d. harmonisation of control procedures for ships, port installations sea farers, ship owners and insurers in the area of maritime safety and security,
- e. harmonisation of laws on piracy and other illegal activities at sea,
- f. adoption and implementation of a methodology for Automatic Identification of ships (AIS),
- g. strengthening of cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-INTERPOL),
- h. promotion of the fight against crimes at sea.

## **CHAPTER II: PRINCIPLES AND AREAS OF COOPERATION**

### **Article 3: PRINCIPLES**

The implementation of this Memorandum shall be guided by the principles of International Law stated below:

- a. subsidiarity
- b. complementarity
- c. equality
- d. independence
- e. consensus
- f. cooperation
- g. rights based approach to contractual relations among the Parties



#### **Article 4: AREAS OF COOPERATION**

To achieve the specific objectives stated in Article 2 of this Memorandum, the Parties shall cooperate in all areas regarding maritime safety and security, including:

- a. technical cooperation
- b. training and capacity building
- c. information management and data collection
- d. mobilisation of resources necessary to achieve the objectives
- e. coordination of joint activities
- f. management of sea borders
- g. any other area of common interest recognised as relevant by the Parties ;

### **CHAPTER III: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING MECHANISM**

#### **Article 5: IMPLEMENTATION**

1. In the implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum, the Parties agree to:
  - a. hold annual meetings of the Chief Executives of ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC which shall provide guidance, monitoring and evaluation of regional cooperation,
  - b. create an inter-regional Coordination Centre (ICC) for the implementation of the regional strategy for maritime safety and security.
2. The structure and functioning of these platforms shall be specified by supplementary texts.

#### **Article 6: PARTNER SUPPORT**

The support of all strategic partners at the international, bilateral and multilateral levels, is envisaged in the implementation of this Memorandum.

### **CHAPTER IV: TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 7: AMENDMENT, TERMINATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

- a. The Memorandum shall be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties
- b. Any Party may withdraw from this MoU having given a minimum of three-month notice to the other Signatories without prejudice to activities in progress.
- c. Withdrawal by one of the Parties shall not prevent the implementation of this Memorandum by the remaining Parties in their maritime areas.

#### **Article 8: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

All disputes arising from the interpretation and/or implementation of this Memorandum shall be settled through diplomatic means.



**Article 9: ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force from the date of its signature by the Parties. It shall be produced in twelve (12) copies, three (3) copies each in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish languages, all four texts being equally authentic and handed to each Party.

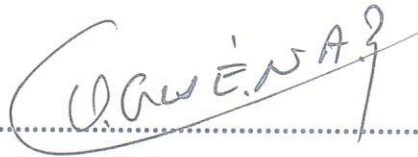
**Article 10: PUBLICATION**

- This Memorandum of Understanding shall be published in the working languages of the Member countries of ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC member States.
- It shall also be published in the national gazettes of ECCAS, ECOWAS and GGC Member States.

**IN FAITH WHEREOF WE THE PARTIES HAVE SIGNED THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**

Adopted in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon on 25 June, 2013.

For ECCAS General Secretariat  
Nassour GUELENDOUKSIA OUAIDOU  
Secretary General



For ECOWAS Commission  
Kadré Désiré OUEDRAOGO  
President of the Commission



For the Gulf of Guinea Commission  
Miguel TROVOADA  
Executive Secretary

