



United Arab Emirates

## **POSITIVE OUTCOME OF FIRST EVER HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC-PRIVATE COUNTER PIRACY CONFERENCE, HELD IN UAE**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21 April 2011:** - The UAE counter-piracy conference held in Dubai this week has seen an unprecedented commitment from both government and industry leaders from around the world to taking concrete steps to battle piracy in the short and long term, and both on and off shore.

A declaration adopted by senior officials from more than 65 governments, international organisations including the United Nations, the International Maritime Organisation, and more than 120 maritime and maritime industry related companies underlined the seriousness of the threat of piracy on national security as well as on trade and the maritime industry, and called for immediate and collaborative action to tackle the human and financial repercussions of piracy as well as introduce a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to address the root causes of piracy.

Industry also issued a statement to accompany the declaration that proposed active steps to address the danger that vessels and their crew face daily travelling through waters in which pirates are operating.

Co-convened under the theme “Global Challenge, Regional Responses: Forging A Common Approach to Maritime Piracy” by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and global marine terminal operator DP World, the conference was inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, and His Excellency Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Chairman, DP World.

The conference was also visited by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. He met with 16 foreign ministers and three senior industry leaders, in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Foreign Minister, and His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai.

The conference provided a forum for high level deliberations by more than 700 delegates who included foreign and other state ministers from among the GCC, Somalia, Djibouti, Tanzania, the Comoros, the Seychelles, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The United Nations Legal Counsel and Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs also participated.

Those from the maritime industry attending included Gianluigi Aponte, President, MSC, Morten Engelstoft, COO, Maersk, Peter Swift, President, International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, Ron Widdows, President, and CEO of Neptune Orient Lines (NOL) and Chairman, World Shipping Council, Dr Stefano Messina, CEO, Messina Line and Giles Noakes, Chief Maritime Security Officer, BIMCO. Experts participating included Dr Martin Murphy, Kings College, London, and Pottengal Mukundan, Director, International Maritime Bureau, amongst others.

In the 11-clause communiqué, available on the conference website, [www.counterpiracy.ae](http://www.counterpiracy.ae), delegates agreed that “maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea continue to represent a grave threat to Somalia and other states in the region, as well as to worldwide international navigation, the safety of global commercial maritime routes, and the safety of seafarers and other persons. The escalation of pirate attacks in 2011 has hurt global trade and commerce, and has a damaging impact on peace, security and stability throughout the world.”

Parallel to the main conference, the UAE and the United Nations fundraising event in support of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia was also highly successful. More than US\$5.1 million was raised on the day, with more pledges expected in coming weeks. Amongst those, the UAE government pledged a donation of one million dollars to the Trust Fund, while UAE-based companies donated US\$400,000. It is the first time that industry has contributed to the fund – a fact noted in the Final Declaration which recognises it as a transformative moment in ensuring a fully resourced, comprehensive public-private counter-piracy approach.

The Trust Fund was established in January 2010 by the UN Secretary-General at the request of the international Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

The Final Declaration also expresses serious concern at the inhumane conditions facing captive seafarers and calls for humanitarian initiatives to relieve the suffering of the victims of piracy attacks, including their families.

Meanwhile, industry leaders present issued a statement welcoming the efforts of the UAE, the UN and all the governments represented at the conference and said they fully supported the efforts of the UN and relevant government and non-government organisations to tackle the root causes of piracy through long term on-shore projects.

The statement added, “The issue of the dangers daily facing seafarers and shipowners and operators traversing waters in which pirates are active remains and is equally pressing and needs to be urgently addressed. “

Industry proposed several measures to combat the increasing attacks on commercial and non-commercial vessels. These included increased military presence in the waters off the shores of Somalia, in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, the shadowing of motherships controlled by pirates to monitor activities and engage if there are moves to attack shipping, the co-ordination by the current military control centre between navy vessels to closely monitor pirate controlled vessels and inform industry in real time of potential pirate controlled vessels in the area their ships are travelling.

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## **Final Declaration of the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs high-level Counter-Piracy Conference 2011, co-organised with global ports operator DP World.**

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 18-19 April, 2011.

The participants present at the United Arab Emirates Counter-Piracy Conference, entitled 'Global Threat, Regional Responses: Forging a Common Approach to Maritime Piracy', consisting of states and maritime industry organisations, have agreed the following points:

1. Maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea continue to represent a grave threat to Somalia and other states in the region, as well as to worldwide international navigation, the safety of global commercial maritime routes, and the safety of seafarers and other persons. The escalation of pirate attacks in 2011 has hurt global trade and commerce, and has a damaging impact on peace, security and stability throughout the world.
2. In order to be effective, the international community, including states and industry, must work together and actively pursue a comprehensive and fully resourced approach to combating piracy and the conditions from which it arises. In this regard, the participants to this Conference recognise the important role played by the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, and call upon all members of the international community to fully endorse, support, and fund its initiatives to combat piracy in all its aspects. They also acknowledge the importance of raising awareness about the phenomenon of piracy, particularly through the use of media, thus reaffirming their support to the communication strategy adopted by the Contact Group.
3. Maritime piracy is a threat to all nations and is a crime subject to universal jurisdiction. States are called upon to favourably consider the prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted, pirates, consistent with applicable international human rights law and United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1918 (2010), 1950 (2010), and 1976 (2011).
4. The military response to maritime piracy has reduced the success rate of pirate attacks. This response must be continuously and vigorously pursued, including, when feasible, through proportionate action adapted to the complexity of the attacks, with states in the region that have the capacity to do so extending support, where possible. This may include assistance in basing and logistical support to operations consistent with applicable international law.
5. The international counter-piracy effort increasingly highlights the role of those funding piracy operations and others involved indirectly in the financing of piracy. The effective tracking and disrupting of illicit financial flows is an important tool to deter acts of piracy and to apprehend and prosecute those who finance piracy.
6. Some participants expressed concern over the critical issue of ransom payment and its impact on piracy.

7. The international community, including industry, must expand the resource-base available to projects supporting capacity building and economic developments in Somalia and other states directly suffering from piracy. This should include the provision of coordinated training as well as material and financial resources to improve land-based security capacity and livelihoods in Somalia, to deter and prevent piracy. In this context, the pledging of over US\$ 5 million to the Trust Fund to Support the Initiatives of States to Counter Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and to other industry-led on-shore development projects, is recognized as a transformative moment in ensuring a fully resourced, comprehensive public-private counter-piracy approach.

8. The international community must pursue a comprehensive strategy of support to Somalia, which prioritises assisting the Federal Authority, the regional authorities of Galmudug, Puntland, and Somaliland, in improving security conditions and establishing a system of governance and rule of law. Building up the judiciary sectors, facilitating the pursuit of sustainable economic development for the population of Somalia, and establishing an effective, trained and equipped maritime law enforcement force are essential elements in this process. This is in recognition that no durable eradication of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Aden and wider Indian Ocean is possible without a long-term regional and global solution to counter state failure, instability, and other underlying causes of piracy in Somalia.

9. The participants to this Conference call upon the Somali Federal and regional authorities to cooperate and set up an internal joint coordination mechanism for security and judiciary sector development to enhance the effectiveness of the support given by the international community.

10. There is serious concern at the inhumane conditions which hostages in the captivity of pirates face. Humanitarian initiatives designed to relieve the suffering of captive mariners and others exposed to traumatic incidents of piracy attack, including their families, should be expanded by states, industry, and humanitarian organisations. Participants to this conference call upon relevant United Nation Offices to hold a conference to address this concern, including through identifying specific programmes to alleviate the suffering of victims of piracy.

11. It is critical that ship owners and operators fully implement the guidance issued by the International Maritime Organization, including the industry-developed Best Management Practices. The industry needs to take note of and act upon the piracy-related warnings to shipping issued by naval organisations and the regional information centres established under the Djibouti Code of Conduct, in order to give ships, their masters, and crews the greatest possible chance of avoiding and countering piracy attacks, including through contributing to, drawing from, and pooling of information.

12. The Djibouti Code of Conduct, drafted under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization in January 2009, offers the appropriate framework to deepen regional cooperation. In the context of regional cooperation and ownership, the Conference acknowledges the importance of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan against piracy and for maritime security adopted by the Eastern and Southern African and Indian Ocean region, which draws upon the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

13. As maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea expand in other areas, such as the central and western coasts of Africa, the international community should consider the pursuit of a comprehensive strategy of supporting and encouraging regional organisations to develop regional and multilateral coast guard systems and other counter-piracy instruments.

## **INDUSTRY STATEMENT**

The maritime industry represented here welcomes the efforts of the UAE, the UN and all the governments represented at this important conference to combat maritime piracy, and is encouraged by the openness and commitment of all those present to addressing the serious human and economic costs of piracy.

The industry fully supports the efforts of the UN and relevant government and non-government organisations to institute long term, on-shore projects that seek to address the root causes of the attacks, including community development, legal frameworks and governance.

The issue of the dangers daily facing seafarers and shipowners and operators traversing waters in which pirates are active remains and is equally pressing and needs to be urgently addressed.

Industry proposes the following measures to combat the increasing incidence of attack on commercial and non-commercial vessels:

1. An increased military presence in the waters off the shores of Somalia, in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.
2. The shadowing of motherships controlled by pirates to monitor activities and engage if there are moves to attack shipping
3. That the current military control centre that co-ordinates between navy vessels closely monitors pirate controlled vessels, and informs industry in real time of potential pirate controlled vessels in the area their ships are travelling
4. That all shipowners/operators submit information on piracy attacks on their ships to the control centre in a timely fashion.

The industry represented here will work actively with relevant government organisations and industry colleagues to realise these proposals.