

Concept Note



Australian Government

Concept Note Maritime Regulation and Enforcement in the Indian Ocean Virtual Course 17-21 June 2024 Online

Background

This concept note is for the delivery of a maritime regulation and enforcement course for inter-agency officials from IORA members. The Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) will deliver a course dealing with legal issues in relation to maritime regulation and enforcement operations, including anti-piracy operations, narcotic smuggling and interdiction, responding to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and irregular immigration and people smuggling. The content will be delivered in an online format, allowing for the participation across the Indian Ocean region. The project builds off a similar course delivered by ANCORS to civil maritime officers in Southeast Asia, facilitated by ABF and DFAT since 2017.

Proposal

Australia proposes to host a 4.5-day online virtual workshop on Maritime Regulation and Enforcement which includes international law considerations in maritime regulation and enforcement across a number of key areas including internal waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Archipelagic Waters and Straits Used for International Navigation, the Exclusive Economic Zones (Fisheries), the High Seas and Illegal Immigration/People Smuggling by Sea. As a case study, the course will also discuss Australia's maritime regulation and enforcement framework.

The course will be hosted virtually from 17-21 June 2024 and will be delivered by ANCORS at the University of Wollongong.

The course is targeted to maritime security government enforcement officers to further deepen their knowledge of maritime regulation and enforcement in accordance with international law and principles. It will also provide an opportunity for direct interaction between participants through the group exercise during the course, building constructive links in the maritime enforcement space.

The draft course program is located at Attachment A.

Aims and Objectives of the Workshop

The aim of the workshop is to provide IORA Member States the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge on international maritime regulation and enforcement, provide a unique forum to facilitate regional discussions and provide the opportunity for enable maritime security enforcement officers to network with Indian Ocean counterparts. The course also aims to provide insight on domestic

implementation of international obligations including Australia's maritime regulatory and enforcement framework.

Envisioned Outcomes of the Workshop

The primary outcome of the workshop is to foster greater understanding of international maritime regulation and enforcement, particularly in accordance with the UNCLOS and provide a forum for participants to discuss Issues. Practical activities will strengthen knowledge and application of maritime regulation and enforcement whilst building networks between maritime enforcement officers across the Indian Ocean region.

Benefits to Participants

Participants will develop a greater understanding of international maritime regulation and enforcement obligations to better comply with UNCLOS and international maritime and enforcement principles and standards to strengthen national maritime regulation and enforcement policies and procedures.