



UN Photo/Mark Garten

“The only truly successful way to address the problem in the long term is through a strategy that focuses on deterrence, security, the rule of law and development. Our common goal must be a sustainable solution.”

– UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addresses the UN International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, February 3, 2011

USS Farragut and a Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to multinational counter-piracy Combined Task Force 151 training in the Gulf of Aden

U.S. Navy Photo by MC1 Elizabeth Allen/Released



UNODC

The graduating class of a Counter-Piracy training course

You can help defeat the scourge of piracy by supporting the deterrence and prosecution of pirates, and help Somalis establish the rule of law and their long-term developmental objectives, which are so vital to achieving a long-term solution to piracy.

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For more information you may visit the Trust Fund’s website at www.unodc.org/piracy or contact:

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The Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia



UNODC/www.saveourseafarers.org

Challenging impunity, promoting the rule of law and combating piracy in all its aspects

CONTACT GROUP
ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

The Problem of Piracy

Piracy off the coast of Somalia is a crime of growing global concern. The number of pirate attacks has risen steadily since 2007, growing more organized, more violent and covering an increasingly large geographic area, spanning from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. Heavily-armed pirates board unarmed vessels and seize the ship, cargo and crew for ransom. The crew members are held hostage for many months, sometimes years, in appalling conditions, and the lives of many innocent seafarers have been lost.

In 2010 alone pirates captured 1,181 sailors aboard 53 vessels and a number of the captives died or were killed while under the control of pirates. Today, almost 600 crew and passengers are thought to remain in hostage situations. Ransom demands run into hundreds of millions of dollars a year, with the total cost of piracy to the global economy estimated to be in the billions.

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1851 (2008), the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was established in January 2009 as a voluntary, ad hoc international forum to coordinate international efforts in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia.

Since its initial meeting in January 2009, the CGPCS has nearly doubled in size—a testament to the global consensus that piracy poses a shared security challenge. Today, over 60 nations and international organizations participate in the CGPCS, which meets regularly.

The CGPCS operates through four thematic working groups: Working Group 1 on military and operational coordination, information sharing, and capacity building; Working Group 2 on legal

issues; Working Group 3 on the strengthening of shipping self-awareness and other capabilities; and Working Group 4 on public information. The CGPCS also convenes on an ad hoc basis to foster international cooperation to disrupt the illicit financial networks that fuel piracy.

The Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

In January 2010, on the request of the CGPCS, the Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Trust Fund to Support the Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The objective of the Fund is to support prosecution and detention-related activities as well as other priorities related to implementing Contact Group objectives regarding combating piracy in all its aspects.

Governance is provided through a Board consisting of ten Member States of the Contact Group (on a rotating basis), supported by the UN System. The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) is the Chair of the Board and provides the Fund Secretariat, while the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the Manager of the Trust Fund.

Since its inception, the Fund has considered 20 projects and approved ten, with a total value of US \$4.2 million. The approved projects include initiatives aimed at strengthening the criminal justice systems and law enforcement systems to fight piracy in Somalia, Kenya and The Seychelles. A media project supporting partners in designing and disseminating anti-piracy messages in Somalia was also launched.

Front Cover and top left bar: Somali pirates (UNODC/www.saveourseafarers.org)

Photos at right, clockwise from top left (UNODC): Hargeisa prison facility; security guard at Hargeisa prison; prison transfer bus carrying suspected pirates to court in Kenya; guards outside Hargeisa prison



The Expedited Facility for Prosecutions and Detentions

The Expedited Facility (ExFac) of the Trust Fund is a unique mechanism which permits the payment or reimbursement of short-term prosecution related expenses and supports relevant legal capacity-building activities. The ExFac provides financial support for urgent, time-sensitive initiatives which ensure that administrative processes, such as prosecution and detention of piracy suspects, remain functioning and uncompromised. The ExFac can be used by Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders to reimburse the costs of participating in regional piracy trials, including the travel of key witnesses.

Photo in top right bar: Pirates leave a seized merchant vessel Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008 (AP Photo/U.S. Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason R. Zalasky)