



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Maritime Crime Programme Strengthen Partnership to Combat Maritime Crimes

1. The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations in combating maritime crime and piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.
2. Under the MoU, ReCAAP ISC and UNODC GMCP have agreed to exchange information and material on threats and trends related to maritime crime, piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The MoU will also facilitate reciprocal representation by the ReCAAP ISC and UNODC GMCP at meetings, forums and activities convened by either party.
3. The signing of the MoU builds on the existing collaborative relationship between the ReCAAP ISC and UNODC GMCP. The ReCAAP ISC, since 2018, has been participating in the Contact Group Meetings on the Sulu and Celebes Seas (CGSCS) organised by UNODC GCMP. CGSCS is a multi-stakeholder approach that brings together key maritime partners to provide a comprehensive and shared understanding of key issues and responses to maritime crimes in the Sulu and Celebes Seas. The ReCAAP ISC, during these meetings, has provided insights on the observations and trends of the abduction of crew incidents in the Sulu and Celebes Seas.
4. Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC, said “The MoU with UNODC GMCP will expand ReCAAP ISC’s network of cooperative

arrangements with international organisations, and provide the Centre with greater access to information, expertise and insights regarding maritime crimes and maritime security in Asia. We are pleased to partner with UNODC GMCP to support the safety and security of mariners traversing the region.”

5. Ms. Siri Bjune, Head of UNODC GMCP, said "The signing of the MoU between UNODC GMCP and ReCAAP ISC signifies our strong joint commitment in the continued fight against maritime crime and illicit activities at sea".



ReCAAP-ISC Executive Director Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan (L) and Ms. Siri Bjune, Head of UNODC GMCP (R) affirm shared interest and commitment to combat maritime crimes.

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About ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC)

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance regional cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The Agreement entered into force on September 4, 2006 with 14 Asian countries as Contracting Parties, and the Information Sharing Centre was established on November 29, 2006. To date, 21 States (14 Asian countries, 5 European countries, Australia, the USA) have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP. To fulfil its vision as the Information Hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, ReCAAP ISC enhances regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements. For more information about ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>

About the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP)

The Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) was established in 2010 in response to United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for a concerted international response to address piracy off the Horn of Africa. The programme, then known as the Counter Piracy Programme, played a central role in the establishment of a regional 'piracy prosecution model'. Since then, the Counter Piracy Programme has expanded both thematically and geographically into the Global Maritime Crime Programme covering a much wider spectrum of maritime crime within six ocean spaces globally.

The programme is committed to support Member States, through its mandate, to develop cooperation both at a regional and international level and build law enforcement capacity among Member States to counter serious organized crime within the maritime domain. In terms of its lines of activity, GMCP traditionally offers support to countries to tackle transnational maritime crime throughout the entire criminal justice chain. This involves technical, material, and infrastructural support to law enforcement, prosecution, and detention.

For more information about UNODC GMCP, please visit <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/piracy/index.html>.