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Chapter I

Introduction

1. By its resolution [78/13](#), the General Assembly, having taken note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean ([A/78/29](#)), requested the Chair of the Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the Assembly at its eightieth session.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Committee held its formal session (461st meeting) on 3 July 2025 at United Nations Headquarters.

3. At the 461st meeting, the following delegations made statements in the general discussion under agenda item 4: India, Australia and Indonesia.

4. The Committee is composed of the following States:

(a) 43 members:

Australia	Mozambique
Bangladesh	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	Oman
China	Pakistan
Djibouti	Panama
Egypt	Poland
Ethiopia	Romania
Germany	Russian Federation
Greece	Seychelles
India	Singapore
Indonesia	Somalia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Sri Lanka
Iraq	Sudan
Italy	Thailand
Japan	Uganda
Kenya	United Arab Emirates
Liberia	United Republic of Tanzania
Madagascar	Yemen
Malaysia	Zambia
Maldives	Zimbabwe
Mauritius	

(b) Observers:

Nepal

South Africa

Sweden

5. Following elections to fill vacancies in the Bureau, the officers of the Committee were as follows:

Chair:

Jayantha Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairs:

Demi Della-Porta (Australia)

Sherley Mega Sandiori (Indonesia)

Inacio Virgilio Domingos (Mozambique)

Chapter II

Work of the Committee in 2025

A. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 461st meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda as contained in document [A/AC.159/L.155](#).

B. Report of the Chair

7. At its 461st meeting, the Committee considered agenda item 4, concerning the report of the Chair of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution [78/13](#). The Chair made the following comprehensive statement on his consultations:

“It is an honour to address this Committee at a time when cooperation across the Indian Ocean is more essential than ever for our shared security, prosperity and sustainability. On behalf of Sri Lanka, I wish to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to a peaceful, stable and rules-based Indian Ocean region.

“Sri Lanka is currently the Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for the period 2023 to 2025. Under the theme “Strengthening regional architecture: reinforcing Indian Ocean identity,” we have aimed to promote deeper cooperation and a shared sense of purpose among the nations of our region. We believe the Indian Ocean must not be viewed simply as a transit route for global trade – of course it is a vital one – but also considered as a shared space that connects our people, shapes our identities and drives our economies.

“Before assuming as Chair, Sri Lanka served as Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association’s Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security from 2018 to 2023. During this period, we led the development of a comprehensive maritime safety agenda aligned with the Association’s action plan 2022–2027. The third meeting of the Working Group, held in Colombo in March 2023, developed a plan focused on capacity-building, regional coordination and information sharing. We have emphasized the need for standardized protocols, shared expertise and a coordinated response to traditional and non-traditional threats – ranging from piracy, terrorism and trafficking, to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and environmental degradation. We have also advanced discussions on harmonizing legislation to address cross-border maritime crimes more effectively.

“Our leadership in these initiatives is underpinned by concrete national action. In June 2024, Sri Lanka inaugurated its Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre. This represents a major step in improving maritime safety and emergency response capabilities. With funding from the Government of India, the Centre operates from Colombo with sub-centers and remote stations along our coast, enabling us to coordinate rescues across 1.77 million km² of the Indian Ocean.

“We have also strengthened maritime domain awareness through the Information Fusion Centre in Colombo, established with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Government of Japan. The Centre facilitates real-time surveillance and coordination with international stakeholders, becoming an integral part of the regional information-sharing architecture.

“Sri Lanka actively contributes to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, further reinforcing our commitment to the safety of major shipping lanes that pass by our shores. This engagement complements national efforts like the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and aligns with broader regional maritime governance priorities.

“Our partnership with UNODC has also deepened. With their support, we are bridging the gap between maritime interdiction and successful prosecution on land. A new framework developed jointly with our Attorney General’s Department addresses a range of maritime crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal fishing and pollution. The framework will ensure proper chain of custody in legal proceedings.

“To support sustainable ocean use, Sri Lanka has enhanced vessel monitoring using advanced tracking systems to detect illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and ensure seafarer safety. We amended our Fisheries Act in 2023 to prohibit illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by Sri Lankan vessels in all maritime zones, aligning with our Sustainable Development Goal 14 commitments.

“We affirm that the security of our oceans is integral to the stability and prosperity of nations. In order to benefit, oceans must be kept free of any power conflicts and security challenges and enhance confidence-building among all countries.

“In the above context, it is regretted to note that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean has not been able to reach an agreement on the manner of implementation of the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

“Furthermore, the global nuclear landscape is marked by rising tensions, explicit and implicit nuclear threats, and an alarming reliance on the military doctrine of stockpiling nuclear weapons for deterrence. We are also concerned by the stiffening of nuclear postures, the modernization of arsenals and the use of emerging technologies and the deployment or sharing of weapons across borders.

“Therefore, it is important that the work of this Committee must continue with our efforts aim to foster in peace and security and boost our economies.”

8. During the meeting, an exchange of views was held on a range of issues relating to the work of the Committee.

9. The Committee reaffirmed the continuing relevance of its mandate in the light of new threats and challenges confronting the region. The importance of organizations such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association was viewed as being of particular significance in enhancing cooperation in maritime safety and security. The need for Member States to continue their engagement in the process was also emphasized, with a view to determining the future direction of the work of the Committee in order to reflect current realities and convergent interests in the region. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to the realization of the goals of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region.

10. The Committee remained convinced that the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users in the work of the Committee was important and would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue aimed at developing conditions of peace, security and stability in the region.

C. Recommendations

11. The Chair was requested to continue informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session.

D. Adoption of the report of the Committee

12. At the 461st meeting, the Chair introduced the draft report of the Committee.

13. At the same meeting, the Chair informed the members of the Committee of his intention to hold informal consultations concerning the text of the draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly at its eightieth session.

14. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted its report.

