



The way forward

**IMO correspondence group
on updating the Organizations guidance to
Member States and the industry
on preventing and deterring
piracy and armed robbery against ships**

21 January 2009

Deputy Director General Birgit Sølling Olsen,

Danish Maritime Authority



IMO instruments on piracy and armed robbery against ships

- The issue of piracy and armed robbery against ships has been debated in IMO in 25 years
- IMO has 3 basic instruments dealing specifically with piracy and armed robbery against ships supplemented by Assembly Resolutions
- The guidance to ship owners and ship operators, ship masters and crews are contained in MSC/Circ. 623
- The Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed robbery against ships in MSC/Circ. 622
- code of investigation



The content of the instruments

- The circulars directed towards the administration and ship set up recommendations, which fall into 2 major categories
- How to prevent piracy and armed robbery against ships and
- How to react in case of such an incident.



Guidance to ships

- Contains elements such as:
- deterring pirates to attack
- Ships security plans, including special precautions
- Preventing attacks
- Reporting
- How to react under attack and when the pirates have boarded



Guidance to Member states

Main elements :

- Action plan on how to react when receiving reports on attack
- Cooperation between national authorities
- Cooperation with neighbouring states and other states



The code of investigation

- Main elements
- Establishing jurisdiction
- How to collect evidence
- Prosecution
- Cooperation with other states



The revision proces

- Focus has been on incorporating experiences and how to react in case of the hijacking of vessels which take place off the coast of Somalia
- New elements:
 - a security risk assessment to be carried out by all ships, at least before entering known high risk areas.
 - Turning off the AIS when entering known high risk areas. In the end
 - subject to Flag State discretion - governments should not negotiate with pirates as they are criminals
 - Using armed guards and soldiers from other states



The revision

- Assistance to the crew when being released
- Expanding the security plans
- Using professional assistance when a ship has been high jacked



The revision (code of investigations)

- Further co-operation between states, expert group on prosecution?
- The Role of IMB – could they investigate on behalf of Flag states/ Coastal States and collect evidence ?



Questions ??????

- Contact details:

- **Birgit Sølling Olsen**

- **Birgitta Sander Hjortsøe**

- e-mail: BSO@dma.dk

- e-mail: BSA@DMA.dk

