



**CENTRE INTERREGIONAL DE COORDINATION (CIC)
INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE (ICC)**

pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie régionale de sûreté et sécurité maritimes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

March 4, 2022

CIRCULAR NOTE



Ref. N° 17/ED/ICC/LE/2022

Subject: Procedures for the integration of international vessels into the maritime security system of the Gulf of Guinea

The security situation in the maritime region of the Gulf of Guinea in recent years, marked in particular by armed or non-armed attacks against merchant ships and their crews, has led the States from which most of the major shipowners come to deploy collectively and individually in the Gulf of Guinea ships of their respective navies to combat acts of piracy and armed robbery. These include the Pilot Project of the European Union known as Coordinated Maritime Presence (CMP) or the Corymbe mission of the French Navy since 1990.

Indeed, pirates are going further and further from the coast (120 nautical on average in 2019 and 150 nautical miles in 2020) to attack ships where they fully know that coastal navies' ships even if they go there will arrive long after the end of the incident. In the absence of an agreement with coastal States for the time being, international navies' vessels operate in international waters, thus filling the absence of coastal navies or the inadequacy of their presence on the high seas.

In order to tactically integrate these international vessels into the security environment of the Gulf of Guinea articulated around the maritime security and safety architecture of the Gulf of Guinea through the Maritime Collaboration and Cooperation Forum (SHADE) created by ICC and Nigeria in April 2021, the following provisions will be observed in relation with MAICC in Brussels and the various staffs of the international navies:

- Before deployment

The MAICC or the navy Staff of the vessel concerned must send to the ICC for the interregional presence and to CRESMAC and CRESMAO for the presence in their respective spaces, the name of the vessel, the purpose of the mission, the duration of the mission, the area of presence, the phone number and e-mail of the ship's managers. Upon receipt of this information, the center concerned ICC, CRESMAC or CRESMAO organizes a videoconference with the international vessel – it is no longer up to the international vessel to organize this videoconference – in the presence of the centers in the declared area of presence to develop the practical arrangements for the activity of the said ship.

- During deployment

In collaboration with CRESMAC or CRESMAO, the vessel shall communicate to the MMCC of the area where it is located its position and maneuvering intentions for the day in the format to be agreed upon and shall also indicate the most reliable means of communication in the event of a report of an incident in its environment. The procedure for connecting to the YARIS network and its use are part of the guidance that will be disseminated in a separate document. As part of the management of an incident, the international ship remains in contact with the MMCC of the incident area as well as the MOC for the coordination of the response. Regarding the prosecution of pirates that the international ship might apprehend during the incident, measures are being taken with coastal States for the handover with the assistance of UNODC.

