

## Ministers' Roundtable: Piracy at Sea

### JOINT STATEMENT

Ministers and high level industry representatives exchanged their views on piracy. Somalia based piracy especially, is still a serious threat to the maritime transportation industry as well as to the global trade system as a whole. The participants commended the presence of the Military counter-piracy operations in the region, noting that they are crucial in containing the piracy situation off the Coast of Somalia, as well as the highly beneficial initiatives taken by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to prevent piracy, including the provision of interim guidance to flag states on private maritime security companies. Expectations were expressed that the IMO Piracy Meeting scheduled in mid-May will give an important momentum to the solution of this item. While the participants recognised they were a short-term solution, the participants identified the need to consider establishing an international basis regarding the private armed security guards issues, including the accreditation of private maritime security companies (PMSCs), the use of firearms and their carriage on ships entering the territory of port/coastal states, and urged the participants at the IMO to deliberate this as a matter of priority at their upcoming meeting.

It was recognised meanwhile the only sustainable solution would be stability on land in Somalia.

It was agreed to continue the close cooperation on the matter of piracy.

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