FORUM: GA1

QUESTION OF: Combating piracy in the Gulf of Guinea

MAIN SUBMITTER: France

CO-SUBMITTERS: Palestine, Benin, Japan, Latvia, Uganda, Chad, Bangladesh, Iraq, Interpol, Rwanda, OPEC, Argentina, Turkmenistan, Lithuania, Zimbabwe

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Reminding* that the 5,000-nautical mile coastline of the Gulf of Guinea is rich in hydrocarbons, fish, and other resources, which contributes to resource extraction, maritime commerce, shipping, and development,

*Keeping in mind* that pirates often sell stolen goods to the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), which in return sells weapons to the pirates,

*Stressing* that the cooperation at a regional level is necessary for an effective strategy to counter the threat of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea,

*Realizing* that the waters off the Niger Delta account for more than half of the piracy attacks recorded in recent years and constitutes a need to improve economic opportunities for the coastal communities there,

*Acknowledging* the fact that Pirates are often motivated to steal because of economic incentives and by a lack of law enforcement,

*Recognizing* the fact that piracy attacks in the Gulf of Guinea comprised a fifth of all recorded maritime incidents globally in 2013,

*Stressing* the fact that in order for privacy to be reached in Guinea, individual states should have cohesive regional security cooperation,

1. Calls upon UN Member States to launch an awareness campaign in order to notify citizens who live among the gulf of Guinea on what types of actions they can take in order to help end piracy by means such as but not limited to:
   1. having radio, television, Internet advertisements, Newspaper or billboard advertisements that promote the awareness and what can be done,
   2. have documentaries be made and aired in a TV series about the dangers of piracy which can be aired on well known networks in their respective countries;
2. Encourages international cooperation with NGO’s such as the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), to provide support to regional States and organizations to further enhance states countermeasures for piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea by means such as but not limited to:
   1. conducting more consistent and regular regional patrols,
   2. maintaining the joint coordination centers and joint information-sharing centers;
3. Suggests that incentives be used toward the states in the region of the Gulf of Guinea to come together and reach a mutual agreement for ways to develop national maritime security strategies by including the creation for the prevention of further piracy at sea by creating a way of prosecution for individuals that participate in such crimes as a way to encourage regional cooperation such as:
   1. financial incentives,
   2. trade benefits,
   3. infrastructure and aid,
   4. the right to cross borders in pursuit of pirates,
   5. allowing international task forces to assist nations to combat piracy;
4. Requests governments to put forth new legislation for a more effective prosecution of pirates and maritime criminals in Central and West African states by strengthening the judicial processes by having heavier penalties in order to provide navies, coast guards, and maritime security agencies prosecution powers in order for states to rely less on the police and other agencies for such a vital element of the enforcement cycle;
5. Recommends nations to further implement penalties on pirates and people relating to acts of piracy in order to lower the incentive of children to become one and assist in spreading the idea of a negative connotation on piracy as a whole by asking nations to come together and agree on the same penalties so that pirates will not be more likely to target a specific nation;
6. Urges for the profiling of piracy networks and maritime crime in order to sharing more information among stakeholders for an effective and cost-efficient way to halt the attacks on shipping in the region by ways such as but not limited to:
   1. monitoring transiting vessels, crews, and their ownership with a view to profiling suspicious vessels and individuals, including activities in coastal communities,
   2. a watch list for suspect and suspicious vessels as well as accomplices to be developed, updated, and shared between stakeholders,
   3. allocating armed state officials to allow an immediate response to any hijacking attempts;
7. Encourages for specific economic development on the coast infrastructural development, youth employment generation, and coastal environmental protections, given that the waters off the Niger Delta account for over half of the piracy attacks recorded in recent years, there is a need to improve economic opportunities for coastal communities there, likewise, given the socioeconomic impacts of illegal fishing, pollution, and environmental degradation, state and local governments across the region must focus on maritime-related policy matters that directly impact coastal residents,
8. Expresses its hope that nations will start or improve the education in prison systems, to give prisoners degrees to decrease the chance that they will turn back to piracy by ways such as, but not limited to:
   1. working with NGO’s such as the International Committee of Education in Prisons (ICEF) to come so such prisons to help strengthen the education system,
   2. asking current educational professionals to come volunteer at prisons to increase quality of education;
9. Requiring to take measures in improving youth employment in coastal communities, in order to minimize the number of petty crimes to ensure that state and local governments across the region remain focused on the idea of piracy, by having more manual labor and education opportunities in ways such as but not limited to:
   1. creating stronger ties between countries that depend heavily on manual labor, such as Ethiopia, to improve and discuss more frequently about youth unemployment,
   2. requesting for an expansion for manual labor force in countries that lack this in ways such as introducing more companies for labor,
   3. strengthening education systems in poverty-stricken countries to allow the youth of such states to seize job opportunities which lessen the incentive to become a pirate in the future,
   4. requesting the help of NGO’s such as to combat poverty in developing countries, especially in areas around the coast where piracy incentives are high by:
      1. providing nutritional food, water, money and other necessities to those living in impoverished areas which will put people in a ready state for working,
      2. implementing poverty reduction programs and social programs to empower the poor and vulnerable who live along the coast of Guinea, which will then allow an area to develop quicker which will lead to combatting piracy faster;
10. Asks nations to work with NGOs already active to increase unemployment benefits so that citizens will be less likely to move towards criminal activity to support themselves or their families by ways such as, but not limited to:
    1. raising the employment benefits, i.e. governmentally supplied wages for the unemployed,
    2. improving the food bank system, to certify that people do not have to turn to crime for nourishment,
    3. setting up publicly funded schools for both primary and secondary education;
11. Urges Member States to provide training from Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) to the local maritime forces in order to increase the patrols and control in the territorial waters by teaching military fighting skills,
12. Calls upon all west African states affected by piracy in the Gulf of Guinea to form a coalition between their maritime security forces to form a network called the Gulf of Guinea Defense Organization (GGDO) that will fight piracy by means such as but not limited to:
    1. open territorial waters exclusively for GGDO members
    2. the sharing of essential information
    3. organizing an annual summit to;
       1. create and discuss plans of action
       2. give reports
    4. visit educational institutions to promote their cause.