**SKYMUN 2014 Chair Research Report**

**Committee**: General Assembly I

**Issue**: Measures to end and reduce African coastal piracy

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1. Description of Issue

African coastal piracy is undeniably one of the most pressing issues in Africa. Due to frequent hijacking of cargos and personnels by pirates, global shipping trade has suffered great losses, causing considerable economic depreciation. Originally most prevalent around the Horn of Africa, piracy has been substantially reduced for the past years thanks to the counterpiracy policies that governments have adopted. As a result of the active efforts of the international community, piracy on the eastern coast of Africa has been reduced to a great amount. According to the International Maritime Bureau, the Somali coast has demonstrated a significant decline in the number of attacks from 237 to 75 between 2011 and 2012. However, unlike the east coast, the west coast still suffers under atrocities, experiencing an increase of number of attacks from 49 in 2011 to 58 in the western coast of Africa.

The biggest factor that propels west coastal piracy is the movement of oil. The Gulf of Guinea, in particular, accounts for 10% of the world’s crude oil exports. One of the most largest source of export and revenue, the Gulf of Guinea ironically flourishes and suffers under constantly increasing demand for oil; the EU, for example, plans to triple the import of gas by 2025. Unfortunately, due to increased piracy, nations have lost much oil imported from this area. United States, for example, alone lost fifth of its oil from Nigeria, where as Germany lost 7 billion dollars in 2011. West Africa, even worse, 950 million dollars in a year. Nations furthermore also suffer environmental losses. Because ships are attacked during illegal acts of oil bunkering, oil spills often ensue, causing a wide array of environmental issues, like it did in the Nigerian delta.

Unfortunately, despite the substantial increase of number of piracy, and the exigency for immediate action, many of the nations who are suffering piracy are uncable of tackling these issues. Many of these nations lack maritime law enforcement as well as political and economic stability, causing governments to incur futile policies that fail to tackle the core of the issue. Benin for example, has already suffered from a 70% decrease in shipping, which has ultimately damaged its economy, 40% of which depends on its ports. In contrast, nations such as Nigeria has successfully reduced coastal piracy through strong implementation of policies. Effectively utilizing their robust navies and policies including the zero tolerance, Nigeria has unilaterally fought and almost eradicated piracy.

However, it must also be noted that merely strengthening the navies and hiring private contractors to combat coastal piracy is not the ultimate solution. It may be effective in the short run, but in the long run, because it does not tackle the root of the problem, such efforts would be futile. Only by addressing the following underlying issues can this issue be fully tackled. First and foremost is poverty. One of the strongest impetus that drives pirates to hijack is economic desires. Because pirates make much more profit out of piracy than they do in their regular jobs, there are more incentives to piracy. On average, households in less economically developed nations make less than 2 dollars a day. In contrast, piracy approximately incurred 30 million dollars only in a year. Clearly, because piracy is much more lucrative, people are more impelled to piracy. Environment is also an undeniable factor that pulls young, impoverished fishermen into this lucrative, yet atrocious business. Environmentla devastation in the Nigerian Delta, and the IUU dumping in the East coast, for instance, has lured young fishermen into piracy as they were unable to make their living through fishing.

African coastal piracy not only impacts African nations, but also the nations that trade with these countries. In order to prevent further economic loss from the decline of global trade, it is important to address this issue immediately. It must also be noted that because this issue incorporates diverse aspects, including the core cause, poverty, resolutions must address the aforementioned issues.

2. Definitions of Key Terms

**Horn of Africa**

The region in north-eastern Africa, consisting majorly of Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Ethiopia.

**International Maritime Bureau (IMB)**

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) established a specialized department, the IMB, which aims to tackle maritime issues, preserve the integrity of international trade, and prevent fraud and malpractice. The Piracy Reporting Centre within this organization also works to initiate immediate response to acts of piracy.

**Operation Allied Protector**

A military operation launched by North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 2009, the Operation Allied Proctor aims to provide security of maritime trade and navigation.

**Operation Enduring Freedom- Horn of Africa (OEF-HOA)**

OEF-HOA is a military operation launched by the United States in Somalia, as well as in Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

**Combined Task Force 150**

One of the most successful efforts to reduce piracy, the Combined Task Force 150 is a multinational coalition between 25 nations who aims to focus primarily in the Gulf of Oman.

**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**

The UNCLOS, drafted in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, aims to outline the rights and duties of nations in maritine trade and navigation.

3. Timeline of Key Events

**2007-Development of Somali piracy and international reactions**

The IMB asks the world’s naval forces to cooperate in combating piracy around the Somali coast. Meanwhile, the International Maritime Organization and the UN World Food Program issue the Joint Communiqué, which aims for "concerted and coordinated international action" in dealing with piracy. The UN Security Council also starts to addresses the issue of piracy. Finally, the transitional government in Somalia allows the U.S. to use their guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke in order to chase the hijacked Golden Mori into Somalia's territorial water.

**2008-UN Action against Somali piracy**

UN Security Council introduces a drafted resolution which aims to combat maritime piracy at eastern coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. This resolution unanimously passes. As a result the NATO and the European Union send their naval forces to Somalia. The UNSC, simultaneously, also passes a resolution that legalized international naval forces to execute land-based operations against suspected pirates.

**2009-Further UN actions**

The UN establishes Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), which urges for the cooperation over 80 countries, organizations, and businesses in combating piracy.

**2010-Further UN actions**

UN Security Council Resolution 1918, addresses the issue of the prosecution and imprisonment of pirates.

4. Positions of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies on the Issue

**United Nations (UN)**

The United Nations so far has been heavily involved and proactive in the combat of piracy in the African coasts. Having witnessed the effective combat of piracy through UN intervention in the eastern coast of Africa, a number of western African leaders have implored the UN for further involvement in eradicating piracy.

**International Maritime Bureau (IMB)**

The International Maritime Bureau, a highly acclaimed non-governmental organization pertaining to this very issue, has created a subsidiary branch known as the Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) . The PRC not only establishes a 24 hour center to help the seafarers but also raises awareness within the shipping industry about the risks associated with piracy to prevent future problems. Because the IMB is a body of expertise on this issue, it should be utilized to its fullest extent.

**Somalia**

Somalia is one of the most prominent countries that suffers under incessant and prevalent attacks from coastal pirates. Due to its lack of capacity to deal with piracy, Somalia is still in a fragile state despite persistent international efforts to alleviate its situation. Somalia is one of the key nations that the international committee should focus its aids on.

**Nigeria**

One of the major oil producers of Africa, Nigeria is one of the biggest targets of the pirates due to its abundant supply of crude oil. Although Nigeria is one of the countries that is in dire need of security and governmental regulations, because of its weak and corrupt security forces, and political ties that the pirates are associated in, Nigeria still suffers under rampant piracy and prevalent black markets where oil is sold at higher prices.

**Togo and Benin**

Approximately half of the attacks of piracy in west coast Africa happened in these two nations. With weak governments, insufficient cntrol over the nation, and the dearth of necessary infrastructure to implement governmental policies, both of these countries lack the capacity to deal with piracy individually.

**United States of America**

The USA recently drafted policies that would allow nations to adopt a wide array of legal actions against piracy in 2007. USA has shown its willingness to help out in this issue.

5. Suggested Solutions

In order to tackle this issue at hand, several issues must be addressed.

First, strengthening weak governments. Many countries that suffer from coastal piracy have weak governments who lack control over their countries. The international commitee must aid these countries in improving their governmental structure in a more effective one through measures such as creating benchmarks that can be met and assisting weak governments with pragmatic aid that can solidify the legal jurisdictions. However, it must also be noted that handing in raw money is not always effective. Frequently because these nations have a weak governmental structure that is vulnerable to internal corruption, nations often lack the capacity to make the fullest usage of the money. It is imperative for a neutral organization, such as the IMB, to monitor the correct usage of funds.

Next, poverty. As aforementioned, poverty is one of the biggest factors that propels the impoverished into piracy. Therefore, increasing nations’ economic sector through job creation is also one of goals that these countries should meet. Yet, often times many nations lack economic prowess to do so. Hence it is important for MEDCs to assist such programs so that such key nations may gradually improve their economy to prevent further recruitment of pirates.

Finally, the strengthening of weak legislatures. Most of the times the target nations lack a strong set of punishment on piracy, and the capability to carry out such decisions. Counties that have more advanced legal measures must assist those who don’t in drafting more effective and harsh consequences.

The aforementioned steps will depend heavily on the support and collaboration of advanced democracies with regional governments.

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1. Description of the Issue

With the development of the Internet, both the rate and the form of interaction among individuals and organizations have drastically changed. The massive influx of information as well as the speed of communication has allowed for the interaction in the cyber environment to take up a crucial part of the lives of people in the modern world.

Such advantages of the modern technology pose threats, however, as cybercrime has become one of the most expanding areas of crime. Criminals that are increasingly manipulating the speed and the anonymity of the cyber space introduce a set of new crimes including cyber terrorism and theft of intellectual property. Hackers are attacking computer data and systems and distributing inappropriate content. At a greater scale, there are growing instances of penetration of online financial services, deployment of viruses, and more.

Cyber terrorism has previously escalated to a potential cyber warfare as well. Notably, conflicts between Israel and the Palestinian Authority expanded to online mediums in 2000. Israeli hackers attacked Hezbollah-related websites, while Arab hackers defaced Israeli Ministry websites and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. In time, innocent foreign organizations in relation to Israel were attacked as well. More recently, WikiLeaks created a huge backlash in response to its releasing of critical secret files like the Afghan War Diary, the Iraq War Logs, secret files about the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, and the US State Department diplomatic cables. In addition, Edward Snowden, a former system administrator for the US National Security Agency, appalled the international community yet again by disclosing the existence of American and British surveillance programs.

Thus, it is critical that both individual states and the United Nations establish measures to tackle the issue at hand. Previous attempts, like the resolution in 1998 regarding "Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the context of international security," have only outlined the potential dangers of the ICT. More procedural steps to safeguard information for citizens, companies, and the government need to take place in order to uphold international security and halt further exploitations of the Internet.

2. Definition of Key Terms

**Cyber-Terrorism**

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, it is “terrorist activity intended to damage or disrupt vital computer systems.”

**Intellectual Property**

They are creations including musical, literary, and artistic works, by an individual. Under the Intellectual Property Law, the creator is entitled to certain rights over his/her property.

**Hactivism**

"The act of hacking, or breaking into a computer system, for a politically or socially motivated purpose" (Rouse). An individual who engages in the act of Hactivism is called a "Hactivist." An hactivist often disrupts normal service to bring attention to a certain social or political cause. Whether Hactivism is a crime or not is still being debated on.

**Denial-of-Service Attack**

Also abbreviated as "DoS attack" or "DDoS attack." It is an attempt to make a machine or a network become unavailable to their users. Most perpetrators of DDoS attack use it as a form of expressing dissent and protesting. Sometimes a nation could use it to attack another nation's vital facilities (e.g. North Korea's July 27 DDoS attacks against South Korean government networks and websites)

**NSA**

National Security Agency. It is an American intelligence organization primarily tasked with collecting, decoding, and analyzing information and data for counterintelligence purposes, as well as conducting surveillance on specific individuals on American land. It is authorized to acquire information through covert methods, including but not limited to bugging electronics and engaging in sabotage.

**PRISM**

It is a mass surveillance data mining programme, used by the NSA since 2007. The PRISM collects information and data based on demand to internet companies, like Google Inc. Its existence was revealed by Edward Snowden last July, who described extent of its operation as "dangerous" and "criminal-like." The US government officials disputed some of Snowden's claim, stating that the PRISM helped the US prevent terrorist activities.

**GCHQ**

Government Communications Headquarters. It is a British intelligence organization tasked with providing signals intelligence and information assurance to the British government and armed forces. According to *The Guardian* which exposed Edward Snowden's revelation, GCHQ is alleged to produce more metadata ("basic information on who has been contacting whom, without detailing the content") than the NSA.

**Tempora**

It is another mass surveillance data mining programme, used by the GCHQ since 2011. Tempora extracts data from fibre-optic cable communications and processes it. Tempora is alleged to have acquired recordings of phone calls, content of e-mails, Facebook entries, and the personal internet history of users. According to Snowden, there is no distinction between targeted subjects and innocent civilians in information acquisition. The NSA also has access to this programme.

**United Kingdom - United States of America Agreement**

Also known as UKUSA Agreement or Five Eyes (FVEY). It is a multilateral agreement for cooperation in signals intelligence between the UK (GCHQ), the USA (NSA), Canada (Communications Security Establishment; CSE), Australia (Defence Signals Directorate; DSD), and New Zealand (Government Communications Security Bureau; GCSB). Information is extracted from multiple sources and is not restricted to signals intelligence. During the Cold War, the GCHQ and NSA shared information on Soviet Union, China, and the Eastern European nations under this network. Each member of this agreement is assigned a part of the globe to lead the intelligence collection and analysis (e.g. UK is responsible for Europe, Africa, and European Russia).

**International Security**

This is a broad term referring to measures taken by various nations and multinational organizations to ensure the mutual survival and safety of all. These "measures" might include military action, diplomatic agreements such as treaties and conventions, and economic sanctions. For this issue, the focus would be on how ICT can contribute to and possibly detract from the individual states' and organizations' effort to enforce these measures.

3. Timeline of Key Events

**1996**

Computer hacker from the White Supremacist movement destroyed a massachusetts ISP record keeping system.

**1998**

Spanish protestos purposely destroyed the email delivery system of the Institute for Global Communications by sending sham emails.

**1998**

Tamil Guerrillas sent over 800 emails each day to the Sri Lankan embassies with threatening messages.

**January 4, 1999 - Adoption of Resolution 53/70**

The UN General Assembly adopts the Resolution 53/70 on "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security."

**2000-2001 - "Cyber War" between Arab and Israeli hackers**

**October 1, 2003 - Creation of 4chan**

The chat forum called 4chan is created. After the "anonymous function" in which people can post items anonymously, some users start to call themselves Anonymous.

**December 2006 - Inception of WikiLeaks' operation**

**February 10, 2008 - Anonymous' First Action**

Some members of the Anonymous group organize an online protest against the Church of Scientology which deleted a humorous video of Tom Cruise from the internet.

**June 2009 - Anonymous' Support for Iranian Activists**

After the election protests break out in Iran, Anonymous creates a forum for Iranian activists and supplies outside information to them. It begins to develop a political identity for itself.

**April 2010 - Release of Baghdad Airstrike Video by Wikileaks**

WikiLeaks releases a classified video of the July 2007 Baghdad airstrike, of two Reuters employees were mistaken for enemy soldiers and fired at.

**July 2010 - Release of "Afghan Diaries"**

WikiLeaks and other major media outlets release 92,000 documents related to the War in Afghanistan, which detail individual incidents including cases of friendly fires and civilian casualties.

**December 8, 2010 - Release of US Diplomatic Cables**

WikiLeaks and other major media outlets publish the leaked US diplomatic cables. Within a week, major credit card companies end their contract with WikiLeaks. In retaliation, Anonymous takes down the websites of PayPal and Visa.

**December 17, 2010 - Anonymous' Support for Tunisian Protesters**

Anonymous members create a chatroom for the protesters in Tunisia to provide them with information on how to circumvent the firewall set up by the Tunisian government and medical advice on how to take care of wounds and broken bones.

**January 25, 2011 - Expansion of Anonymous' Activiy into Egypt**

With the protests spreading to Egypt, the Anonymous members expand their action field.

**September 17, 2011 - Anonymous and Occupy Wall Street Movement**

The Anonymous group becomes a sort of a "publicity wing" for the Occupy Wall Street Movement using its fame on the internet, when none of the major media outlets are paying attention to the protesters.

**June 19, 2012 - Assange's Application for Asylum**

Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, who is accused of sexual misconduct in Sweden and was issued an European Arrest Warrant (EAW), applies for a political asylum to Ecuador and enters the Ecuadorean embassy in London, in fear of being extradited to Sweden and face extradition to the USA where he would be detained in a high-security prison and sentenced to death for violating the Espionage Act of 1917.

**August 16, 2012 - Ecuador's Acceptance of Assange's Application**

The Ecuadorean foreign minister announces his government's decision to approve Assange's asylum application. Assange continues his indefinite stay at the Ecuadorean embassy (protected by diplomatic immunity), because the UK government will not allow Assange safe passage out of the country.

**June 2013 - Revelation of Edward Snowden**

Edward Snowden reveals the existence and the operation of NSA's mass surveillance programme to the reporters of The Guardian in Hong Kong.

**August 2013 - Edward Snowden's Asylum**

Edward Snowden is granted a temporary asylum in Russia. He currently resides in an undisclosed location.

4. Position of Key Members and Other Bodies on the Issue

**United States of America**

The USA claims that many of its surveillance operations have protected their citizens' security and prevented terrorist acts. It has successfully prosecuted Private Bradley Manning under the Espionage Act of 1917. After the revelation of the existence of NSA programmes, President Obama and other officials ordered for the review of intelligence and communications technology. Most of the government officials continue to maintain harsh stance against "hactivism" and other activities that may jeopardize its intelligence operations. The US Army blocked its employees' access to *The Guardian* website to prevent further spreading of classified information.

**United Kingdom**

The UK maintains a close relation with the USA especially in terms of intelligence cooperation. In a speech on June 10, William Hague, the British Foreign Secretary, assured the House of Commons that the GCHQ and other intelligence agencies uphold and practice the common UK law. He mentioned that in order for the agency to intercept an individual's electronic records, it needs a warrant signed either by himself, the Home Secretary, or another Secretary of the State; all decisions are based on extensive legal and policy enquiry. However, Mr Hague denied to confirm or deny the accuracy of any leaked information, in accordance with the successive policy of the cabinet members not commenting on the details of intelligence activities.

**China**

China is another major player in the area of intelligence. In 2009, a group of Canadian ㅈ found out that China's global cyber-espionage network *GhostNet* managed to infect dozens of computers in more than 100 nations, infiltrating ministerial and diplomatic communications. However, the details and the validity of this programme have not been acknowledged by the Chinese government. After Edward Snowden disclosed the mass surveillance programmes, the Hong Kong SAR administration let him board the airplane to Russia, despite the American government's effort. China refuted USA's allegation that it was involved in Snowden's departure from Hong Kong. In addition, China expressed grave concern about Snowden's allegations that the USA hacked into many broadband and mobile networks in Hong Kong and mainland China.

**European Union, excluding the UK**

Many European nations reacted angrily upon the news of Snowden's revelation. German chancellor Angela Merkel and French president Francois Hollande designated the spying as "unacceptable." The EU Parliament adopted new rules and protocols to fight cyber-crime on July 4, 2013, which was described by Cecilia Malstrom, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, as "an important step to boost Europe's defences against cyber-attacks."

5. Suggested Solutions

It is highly advisable that member states gather to form a multinational forum that would discuss and formulate the essential frameworks needed regarding cyber terrorism. With the input of various nations’ stance, a global standard can be reached. Common understanding of the cyberspace will facilitate the process of tackling cyber terrorism. Here, nations can both evaluate the progress of the implementation of measures and adjust solutions according to the changing needs which the evolving nature of technology demands.

Nations can then further develop on previous efforts including Resolutions 53/70 and 64/25. Because raising awareness has already been sufficiently accomplished, it is pivotal that specific measures are proposed. The characteristics of possible policies can be broken down into three broad categories: preventive measures, systematic measures, and retributive measures. For instance, a clear, reasonable incentive needs to be present in order to guarantee that the nations will follow the policy and prevent further cyber crimes. Appropriate parties and affordable means to enforce the policy are essential to create a functioning system. Suitable punishment will pay for the crime as retribution.

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