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**Statement**

By

**Deputy Permanent Representative**

H.E. Dr. Halimah Deshong

**Ambassadorial-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on  
Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea**

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New York

Thank you, Ambassador Edrees. I also thank the briefers for their comprehensive presentations.

There is no doubt that the situation in the Gulf of Guinea continues to pose a serious threat to international maritime navigation and security in West Africa. The acts of piracy and armed robbery in the region deserve our continued attention, considering the implications that it has on peace and security, as well as the social and economic development of regional States.

This issue is complex, and we agree that consolidated efforts at the international, regional, and sub-regional levels, is required to address piracy and further enhance maritime security in the region. We welcome the positive steps taken by regional States to launch the Gulf of Guinea declaration on the Suppression of Piracy and the European Union's Coordinated Maritime Preserves Concept.

According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), the Gulf of Guinea waters account for nearly half of the world's reported incidents of piracy in the first quarter of 2021. It is evident that the situation is further deteriorating, and in this regard, we commend the efforts and active support of ECOWAS, ECCAS, GGC, and other regional partners, in strengthening regional cooperation to respond to the threats of piracy and armed robbery. We encourage ECOWAS to continue its efforts towards full compliance with Security Council resolutions related to the implementation of regional strategies for ensuring maritime security.

Assistance to countries in the region is also essential in ensuring the full implementation of regional strategies, including the Yaoundé Code of Conduct for security based on existing regional mechanisms for combating piracy and armed robbery at sea, *which we should strongly promote*. In addition, the prosecution of pirates must remain a priority. Regional States should therefore ensure the full implementation of international laws related to maritime security and safety, particularly the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

This ongoing issue in the Gulf of Guinea requires the full and meaningful participation of women and youth. The livelihoods of women have been disproportionately affected as a result of the deteriorating situation. Therefore, it is important for governments and partners to collectively invest in long-term social and economic development and peacebuilding to meet the immediate needs of women and youths.

Finally, Mr. Chair, refining and implementing a comprehensive strategy is crucial in addressing the safety and security of seafarers and passengers, as well as the sustainable use of natural and marine resources in the Gulf of Guinea.

I thank you.