25–26 NOV 2026

CALLING NOTICE

Subject: 54th SHADE Conference (25–26 Nov 2026)

1. GENERAL

The Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) Conference is an unclassified forum bringing together international navies, the shipping industry, partner nations and international organisations with a shared interest in counter-piracy and maritime security across the Western Indian Ocean and adjacent waters.

The Conference is co-chaired by Combined Maritime Forces and the European Union Naval Force Operation ATALANTA, with participation from partner nations, international organisations and industry associations.

This calling notice provides the principal information and coordinating instructions for the 54th SHADE Conference. Formal invitations will be issued to guest speakers. All other participants should register through the Conference website. The detailed agenda will be published on the website in due course.

2. REGIONAL SECURITY CONTEXT

Since the previous SHADE Conference, the maritime security environment across the Indian Ocean, Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea has become increasingly complex. Armed conflict, attacks against merchant shipping, persistent threats in the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb, and renewed piracy activity in the Somali Basin and Gulf of Aden continue to affect regional maritime security. New regional initiatives, including Saudi-led efforts and planned mechanisms under the Djibouti Code of Conduct framework, are also shaping the evolving security landscape.

Against this background, the Conference will enable international navies and the shipping industry to review coordination and deconfliction mechanisms, exchange operational perspectives, and identify how existing tools and frameworks can be used more effectively to enhance regional maritime security.

3. EXECUTION

The 54th SHADE Conference will be conducted in person. In view of the security situation in the Arabian Gulf, the Co-Chairs have selected an alternative regional venue. The Conference will take place at the Eden Blue Hotel, Eden Island, Victoria, Seychelles.

4. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

a. Registration

All delegates should register through the Conference website: MSC IO | 54th SHADE.

The website will be used to publish the agenda, updates and administrative information.

b. Dress

Dress for all events will be smart casual or the appropriate military uniform.

c. Agenda and Discussion Topics

The detailed agenda will be published on the Conference website in due course.

Participants should be prepared to discuss piracy and other maritime security threats; coordination and deconfliction mechanisms; information-sharing and maritime traffic arrangements; developments in the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb; the activities of international naval forces; emerging threats; and other matters relevant to the regional maritime security community.

d. Expenses

The Conference is not subsidised. Participants are responsible for all travel, accommodation and associated costs.

For enquiries, please contact Interagency-shipping@mscio.eu.

Co-Chair
Ostilio de Majo
Rear Admiral Italian Navy
DCOM EUNAVFOR ATALANTA

Co-Chair
Daniel Thomas
Commodore Royal Navy
DCOM CMF