

# Maritime Code of Practice on Women Peace and Security in the Maritime Space



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September 2024/Cape Town South Africa

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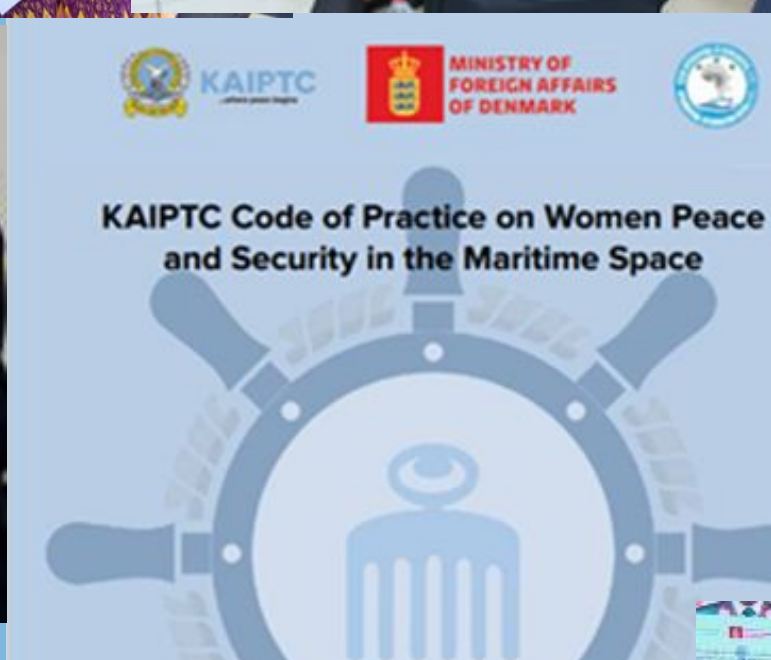
# Overview of the of Code of Practice for Women in the Maritime Space



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# Introduction & Background



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- Significance of the maritime domain within the economic, social, and cultural framework of West and Central Africa.
- Multiple security challenges, including piracy, illicit fishing, and marine pollution
- Challenges intersect with the broader concerns of gender peace, and security.



# The Women Peace & Security (WPS) Agenda



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- Importance of UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- The Women Peace & Security (WPS) Agenda– silent on maritime security, and the consideration of its implications in the maritime space limited.
- MCP seeks to extend the principles of 1325 (WPS) into the maritime security domain

# International & Regional Frameworks on Maritime Security



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- The absence of gender in maritime policy documents, such as the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)**, reinforces the notion that gender is irrelevant to maritime discourse.
- **Women Peace & Security(WPS) Agenda** provides international peace, security, and development frameworks but does not mention maritime security, and the consideration of its implications in the maritime space is limited
- **African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS 2050)** emphasises the human security aspects of maritime security and includes a gender dimension to address human trafficking, particularly involving women and children, but implementation challenges arise due to limited capacity and resources in many African states and at the regional level.
- The **Yaoundé Code of Conduct**, emphasises the need for cooperation to address regional maritime criminality, but it does not consider gender

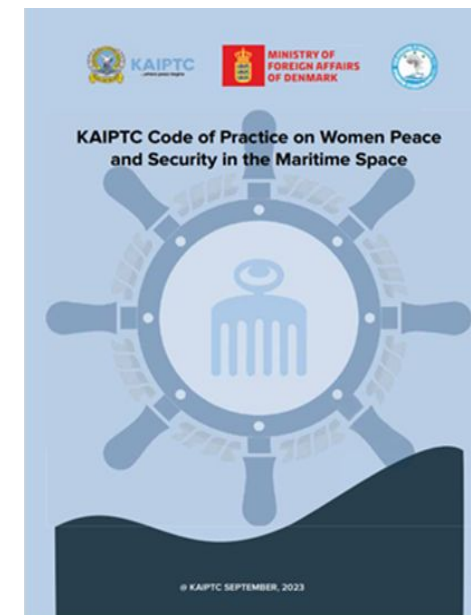


# Code of Practice for Women in the Maritime Security Domain



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- MCP outlines ethical standards and principles that practitioners engaged in maritime security and governance activities across the ECOWAS and ECCAS regions are encouraged to adopt.
- Tailored to emphasize the tenets of the Women Peace & Security (WPS) Agenda and the respective ECOWAS and ECCAS Regional Plan of Actions for 2010 and 2018.



# Aims & Objectives of Code of Practice



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- Focus on achieving equal participation of both women and men in peace and security
- Ensure effective protection of women
- Prevent gender-based violence
- Amplify women's presence and influence in decision-making
- Safeguard women's rights through the promotion of gender equality.
- By embracing this code with the following principles, practitioners actively bolster gender equality, peace, and security within the maritime domain





# Aims and Objectives of the Code of Practice

- To guide and inform the efforts and actions of those engaged in of West and Central Africa's maritime domain
- To enable practitioners to cultivate an environment that upholds the pillars of the WPS Agenda
- Commit to protecting, respecting and amplifying women's rights, voices & empowerment in maritime space.
- To establish ethical standards that emphasize women's safety, dignity, and meaningful involvement in a space historically shaped by a male-centric approach to advancing peace and security outcomes



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# Principles of the Code of Practice

## 1. Gender Equality and Empowerment

Practitioners should actively work towards gender equality and women's empowerment in maritime governance and security initiatives

Actions should be taken to ensure women's meaningful participation and leadership at all levels

## 2. Equal Participation

Practitioners should commit to promoting and ensuring equal participation of women and men in all peace and security initiatives, decision-making processes, and activities within the maritime domain

This includes creating opportunities for meaningful engagement and representation of women at all levels





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# Principles of the Code of Practice

## 3. Human Rights & Dignity

All actions and interventions must respect and uphold the fundamental human rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or background

Avoid any form of discrimination, harassment, abuse or violence

## 4. Diversity & Inclusion

Engage in inclusive and participatory processes that involve diverse voices from women of different backgrounds, experiences, and identities.

Efforts should be made to ensure that marginalised groups are represented, and their perspectives are considered



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# Principles of the Code of Practice

5.

## Amplification of Women's Presence & Influence

Practitioners will amplify women's presence and influence in maritime governance and security decision-making processes by advocating for women's perspectives, experiences, and expertise to be considered and integrated into policies and strategies.

6.

## Confidentiality & Safety

Maintain strict confidentiality when handling sensitive information shared in line with activities and within the maritime communities.

Prioritize the safety and security of individuals involved and seek informed consent for public disclosures



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# Principles of the Code of Practice

## 7. Conflict Sensitivity

Practitioners should know the local context and dynamics of conflicts within maritime communities, must be sensitive to issues and be open-minded

They will develop conflict-sensitive approaches that address the root causes of conflicts and contribute to sustainable peace.

## 8. Local Ownership & Sustainability

Work with local stakeholders, including women's organisations, community leaders, and government bodies

Empower local communities to lead and sustain peace and security initiatives





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# Principles of the Code of Practice

## 9. Accountability & Transparency

Practitioners are accountable for their actions and the outcomes of their interventions

Monitor and evaluate the impact of initiatives and be transparent about successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

## 10. Cultural Sensitivity

Respect and understand the cultural norms, practices, and traditions of the communities you work in and with

Adapt interventions to respect local customs and avoid imposing external values

# Principles of the Code of Practice



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## 11. Prevention & Mitigation of Gender-Based Violence

Take proactive measures to prevent and address gender-based violence within maritime communities.

Raise awareness, provide support services, and work towards creating a safe environment for women and embrace a survivor-centred approach in the redress of abuses and violence

## 12. Creating Safe & Supportive Working Environments

Promote a safe and supportive working environment, free from discrimination, harassment, and any form of gender-based violence

It should encourage the establishment of reporting mechanisms for incidents and ensure that appropriate action is taken to address any such incidents



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# Principles of the Code of Practice

## 13. Capacity Building & Empowerment

Encourage the capacity building of women within maritime communities

Provide training, resources, and opportunities that enhance their skills, knowledge, and ability to participate in governance and security matters actively

## 14. Collaborative Partnership

Collaborate with national, regional and international organisations, governments, and civil society to leverage resources and expertise

Build networks that support the exchange of knowledge and best practices





# Principles of the Code of Practice

## 15. Advocacy & Representation

Advocate for increased representation of women practitioners in decision-making bodies and leadership positions in maritime security governance

It should promote the appointment of women to key positions and support initiatives that encourage women's participation and contribution to the sector



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## **Model Women in Maritime Security Policy Statement, Adaptable to all Actor Agencies in the Maritime Security Domain**

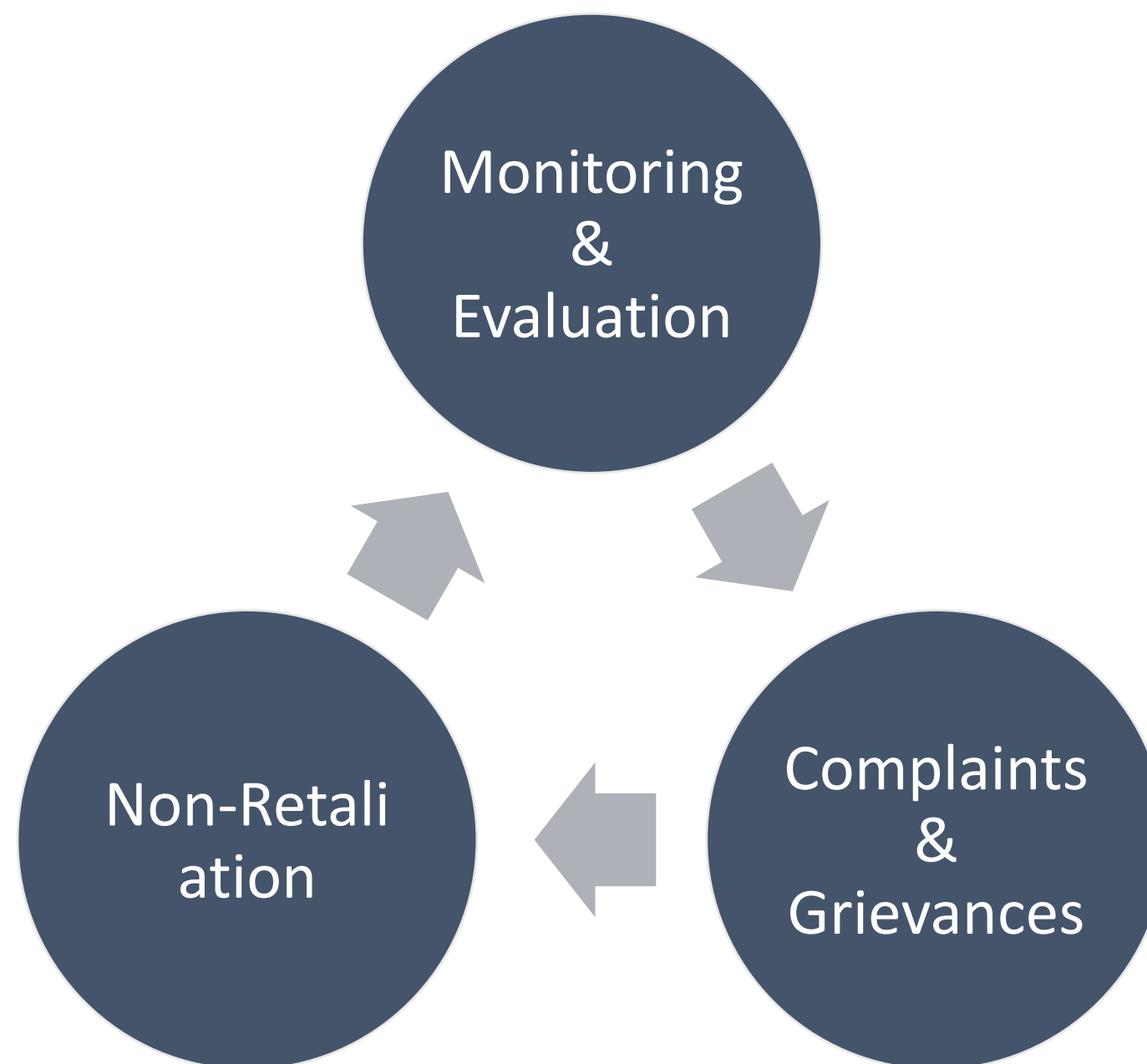
**MARITIME ACTORS.** acknowledges their paramount commitment to the well-being and active engagement of individuals, especially women, within the maritime communities. This commitment is prioritised above programmatic, operational, asset-related, and reputational impact considerations.

**MARIITME ACTORS** further underscore their duty to establish a secure and protective environment, ensuring active participation, safeguarding, and prevention of all violence against women as they execute their roles and responsibilities within their institutions.

# Model Women in Maritime Security Policy Statement, Adaptable to all Actor Agencies in the Maritime Security Domain



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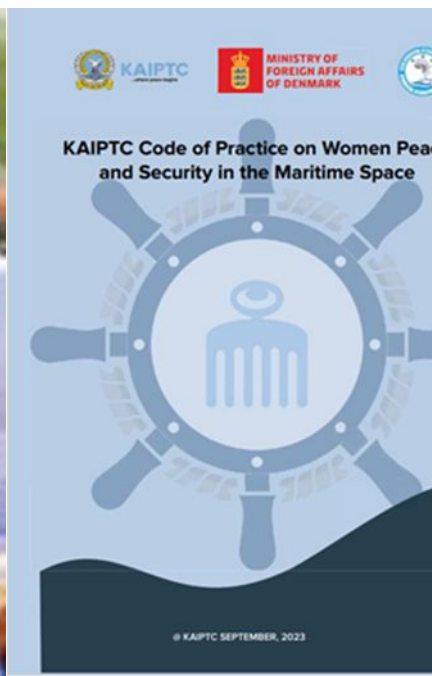
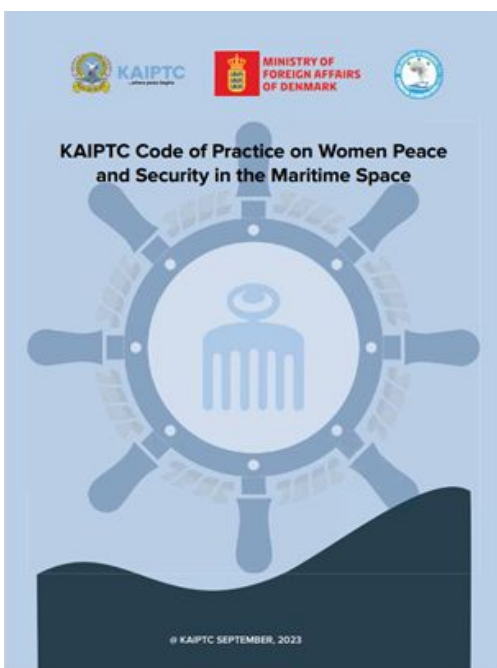




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## Conclusion

By adhering to this Code of Practice, maritime security and governance in West and Central Africa will go a long way to foster gender equality, equity, peace, and security while promoting the rights and well-being of women within the maritime space





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**THANK YOU!**  
**MERCI !**

Maritime  
Security

**Any questions?**

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