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Committee: GA₂

Issue: Mitigating the risks posed to
global trade routes

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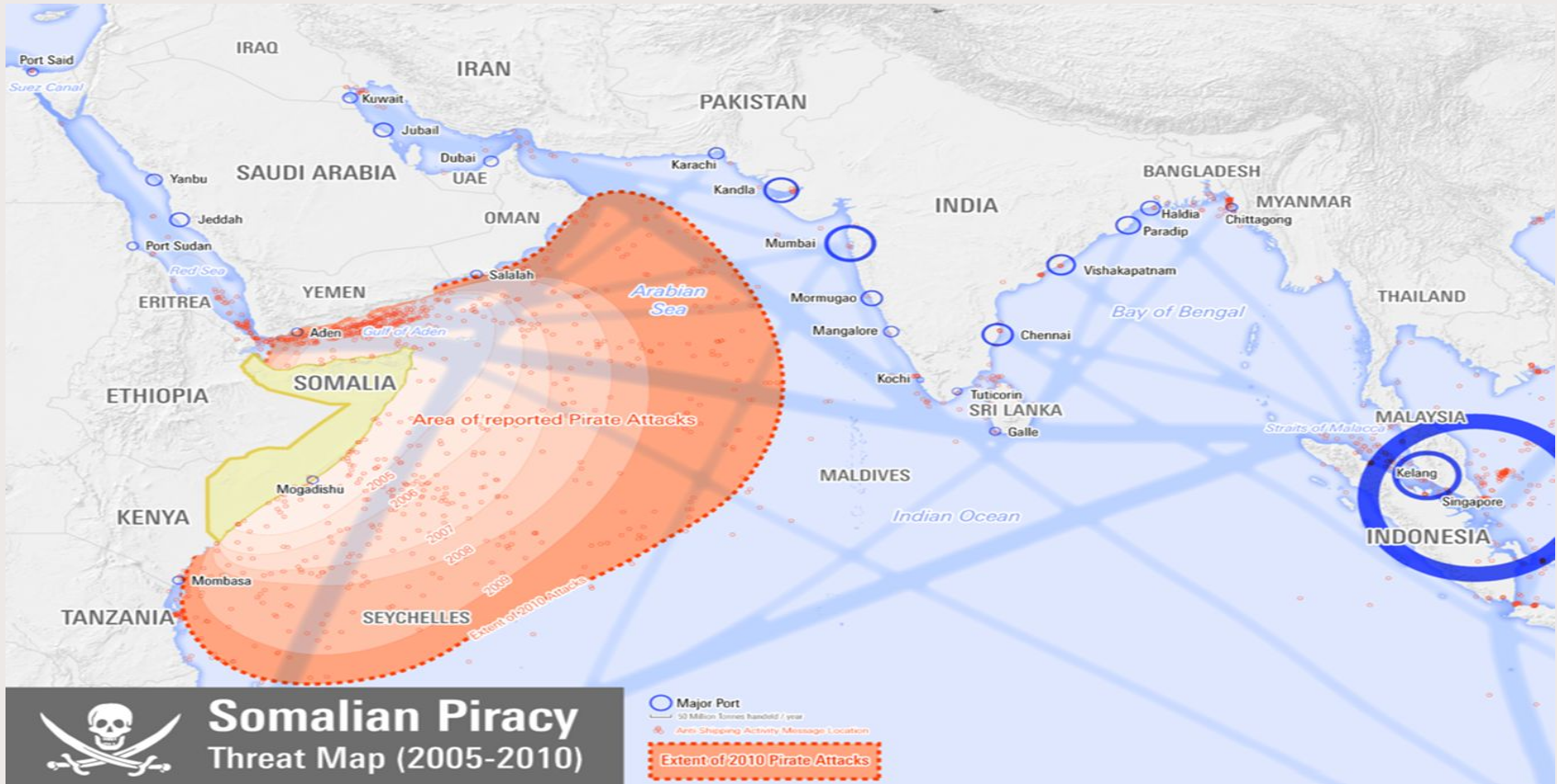
INTRODUCTION

- For the flow of goods, services and resources global trade routes are a bare necessity.
- Geopolitical tensions, piracy and natural disasters pose as huge threats to trade routes. These threats can badly impact global supply chains.
- Vulnerable points include Suez Canal and Strait of Hormuz particularly to blockades.
- Collaborative international efforts, are key to mitigating these risks.
- Adaptation to emerging threats ensure the long-term security and efficiency of trade routes.

Background Information

Factors that contribute to the vulnerability of global trade routes

- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Tensions between nations largely discourage trade between them such as in the case of South China sea and the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Piracy:** significant threat to trade particularly in the areas of the Horn of Africa and Strait of Malacca.
- **Climate Change and Natural Disasters:** natural disasters and rising sea levels put coastal infrastructure in constant threat making trade routes vulnerable.
- **Technological Vulnerabilities:** Strong dependence on digital mode navigation puts trade in a more vulnerable situation against cyber attacks.
- **Economic and Political Instability:** Those countries undergoing political instability and economic downturns impose heavy restrictions and sanctions, thus disrupting trade.



Map of areas under threat by Somali pirates (2005–2010)



Pirates in the straits of Malacca

Relevant Treaties or Past Solutions

- The Suez Canal Treaty – 1888
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) – 2006
- Djibouti Code of Conduct – 2009
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) – 1982
- Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits – 1936
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts (SUA) against the Safety of Maritime Navigation – 1988

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1) Investing in maritime security and infrastructure:

Deploy surveillance technologies (like drones, satellite monitoring etc.) to detect and to respond to threats in high-risk areas.

2) Promoting Climate-Resilient infrastructure:

Upgrading coastal infrastructure in a way that it copes up with rising sea levels, natural calamities by making ports and shipping systems stronger and more flexible.

APPENDICE

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2023/06/growing-threats-to-global-trade-goldberg-reed>

This link provides information on the threats to global trade in the modern world.

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/how-does-climate-change-impact-on-international-trade/>

This link demonstrates how climate change affects global trade negatively.

<https://criticalmaritimeroutes.eu/preventing-piracy-best-practices-for-maritime-security.html>

This link presents the preventive measures to be followed to prevent piracy.