

Session Two



Mr. Alan Cole

Head of the Global Maritime Crime Programme
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Alan Cole joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in May 2009.

Prior to joining UNODC he served for 18 years in the UK Royal Navy in frigates, destroyers and submarines stationed in the Adriatic, South Atlantic, Persian Gulf and Far East. He qualified as a barrister in 1999 and practiced in both civilian and military courts as a prosecutor and defence advocate. He served as the senior military lawyer to the 3* Commander of UK Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2006/2007, advising on the law related to targeting, detention operations and the use of force. He served as the first UK legal advisor to Combined Maritime Forces based in Bahrain in 2008 and supported a range of maritime security operations in the Gulf and Northern Indian Ocean.

Since joining UNODC he has developed the Global Maritime Crime Programme to support regional criminal justice systems with the investigation and trial of persons suspected of maritime crime. He heads a team of 50 staff across West Africa and the Indian Ocean addressing the full range of maritime crime including terrorism, people trafficking, migrant smuggling, narcotics trafficking, fisheries crime, maritime hostage taking and maritime piracy.