

28th June 2024

Atlantic Centre Hosts VBSS Working Group Meeting in Lisbon

On June 25 and 26, the Atlantic Centre, in collaboration with the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC (N)) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), organized the first in-person meeting of the VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure) working group in Lisbon. This significant event brought together a delegation from Cabo Verde, including Ambassador António Nascimento from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Commander of the Cabo Verde Coast Guard, Captain Armindo Graça, and Inspector Mário Pina from the Cabo Verde Judicial Police. The primary goal of the meeting was to present, discuss, and initiate the VBSS project in Cabo Verde.

Over the course of the two-day working sessions, the group had the opportunity to visit the MAOC (N) headquarters, gaining valuable insights into the organization's role and expertise, which will be fundamental for the successful implementation of the VBSS project. Present at the meeting via VTC was the delegation from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and in person were representatives from the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, and the Portuguese Judicial Police. This meeting marked a crucial step towards enhancing maritime security and cooperation in the region.

About VBSS: The VBSS project is an initiative of the Atlantic Centre, together with MAOC (N), UNODC, and UNITAR, aimed at establishing a training center for operators in combating drug trafficking and strengthening maritime security in the region.