Plan, published in 2008. The Maritime Security (Piracy) Policy identifies piracy as a threat to national security, associating it with such other forms of maritime insecurity as illegal fishing, smuggling, and terrorism and urging that it be addressed within a multilateral and interagency policy framework. The Partnership and Action Plan outlines three lines of action to repress piracy—preventing pirate attacks by reducing the vulnerability of the maritime domain, interrupting acts of piracy, and holding pirates accountable by prosecuting them.

The week following the MV Maersk Alabama incident in April 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton articulated a new counterpiracy strategy. It included developing an expanded and better-coordinated multinational response, exploring the tracking and freezing of pirate assets, working with the shipping industry to address gaps in self-defense measures, and engaging diplomatically with Somalia’s Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and authorities in Puntland to combat piracy in their territories. Finally, it addressed improvement in Somalia’s capacity to police its own territory, assistance to Somali authorities in cracking down on pirate bases, and reduction of incentives for Somalis to engage in piracy.