Forum: Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

Issue: Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

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INTRODUCTION

Security is the state of being protected from a variety of dangers or threats. It is spread over several areas including the individual, the society, the national level, and the international level. Thus, its importance is enormous when trying to deal with different issues which require a lot of patience and attention.

Cooperation on the other hand includes all the actions that must be implemented by individuals or by organizations in order to enable dialogue and resolve any rising conflicts. Cooperation assists always in the achievement of common goals or objectives.

The connection between security and cooperation is based on the fact that strong cooperation between individuals, organizations, or even countries improves and strengthens the security at hand. The connection however between both of them is mutual. This means that security strengthens cooperation and vice versa. When individuals, society, organizations, and nations feel secure, they can collaborate effectively and efficiently. Trust and confidence are the two benefits that origin of the sense of being secured. On the other hand, cooperation strengthens security. Through cooperation, huge security challenges can be combatted by sharing common information, research, and developing collectively different measures.

The Mediterranean region has always been vulnerable to dangers and threats, such as political instability, terrorism, illegal migration, maritime piracy as well as conflicts between countries, due to the enormous geopolitical importance of the basin. It connects three continents, Africa, Asia, and Europe as well as the region with the Atlantic Ocean, thus proving its major importance to world trade. In fact, it is estimated that 25% of the international seaborne trade is transported through the region which is based on the 600 ports located there.[1] Among other ports, Piraeus, Alexandria, and Marseille pose as the most prominent ones. However, the

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[1] Manoli, Panagiota. "Economic Linkages across the Mediterranean: Trends on trade, investments and energy", *ELIAMEP, January 27 2021,*[*https://www.eliamep.gr/en/publication/%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%BD%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%AF-%CE%B4%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%BC%CE%BF%CE%AF-%CF%84%CF%89%CE%BD-%CE%BC%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%BF%CE%B3%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1%CE%BA%CF%8E%CE%BD-%CF%87/*](https://www.eliamep.gr/en/publication/%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%BD%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%AF-%CE%B4%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%BC%CE%BF%CE%AF-%CF%84%CF%89%CE%BD-%CE%BC%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%BF%CE%B3%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1%CE%BA%CF%8E%CE%BD-%CF%87/).

number of ports as well as the fact that the Mediterranean Sea connects continents and enables significant trade routes proves that the need for security and cooperation is crucial.

The ethical implications and values when trying to implement security measures and cooperation efforts should be taken into account. The protection of human life and human rights must be prioritized so as to ensure the safety of the citizens of the area as well as their well-being of them.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Security

Security refers to the state of being protected from a variety of dangers or threats.[2]

Cooperation

This noun describes the actions that must be implemented by individuals or by organizations in order to enable dialogue and resolve any rising conflicts [3]

Mediterranean Basin

A phrase referring to the Mediterranean region.

Middle East and North Africa region (MENA)

The MENA region refers to a group of countries in the Middle East and North Africa

Pax Romana

The Latin phrase translates to "Roman Peace". It signifies a period of relative peace in the Mediterranean region.[4]

Piracy

Piracy indicates the practice of violent attacks or acts of robberies in order to seize valuable goods.[5]

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[2] "Security and Protection System." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/technology/security-and-protection-system.

[3] "Cooperation Definition & Meaning." Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cooperation.

[4] "Pax Romana." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/event/Pax-Romana.

[5] "Piracy." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/topic/piracy-international-law.

Arab Spring

The Arab Spring refers to a series of protests that arose in Tunisia in 2010 against corruption and economic stagnation.[6]

Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is an international terrorist group. Its aim is to establish an Islamic state which will encompass all Muslims.[7]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Figure 1: Political map of the Mediterranean area[8]

Civilizations in the Mediterranean Basin

In the past, the Mediterranean region has witnessed the rise and fall of many civilizations that had a significant impact on humanity. The Phoenicians, the so-called first rulers of the Mediterranean, were known for their trade. They established trade routes through the whole Mediterranean region so as to achieve more settlements and become more powerful, thereby gaining control over the entirety of the region.

The Greeks, afterwards, known for their philosophy, science, and democracy, built settlements, which they called city-states, across the Mediterranean basin as well. These city-

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[6] "Arab Spring." *Encyclopædia Britannica, 19 May 2023*, www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Spring.
[7] "Al-Qaeda." *Encyclopædia Britannica, 30 June 2023,* www.britannica.com/topic/al-Qaeda.
[8] Political Map of Mediterranean Sea Region, www.geographicguide.com/europe-maps/mediterranean.htm.

states did not develop strong cooperation with each other, hence showing that the roots of cooperation issues are long cultivated.

The Romans were the ones that established the term "security" in the region. Due to their strong militarization ideology, they deployed arms all over their territory, thus improving the security of the region. The main goal that they wanted to achieve was Mare Nostrum; a sea free of piracy with a variety of trade routes. Even though such an initiative might have caused many conflicts, the Romans established a long-lasting period of stability and peace called Pax Romana. Such an abiding peace requires cooperation, which they had managed to achieve. Ergo, the Romans can be considered the most prominent example of the past that combatted both the security and the cooperation concerns in the area.

Major conflicts in the Mediterranean Basin

Apart from enormous civilizations, the Mediterranean region has also witnessed major conflicts. The most prominent one is the Punic Wars, a series of conflicts between Romans and Carthaginians to uphold Rome's authority in the Basin. After this win, the Romans enhanced the security of the region, since they had destroyed one of their hugest rivals.

The Crusades were also a series of wars like the Punic Wars with the only difference being that the Crusades had a religious character. The battlefield consisted of the Christians and the Muslims who were fighting over the security of holy sites and relics in the region. The effects of them, however, were of utmost importance. They established new trade routes in the Mediterranean, due to the expansion of the Roman Catholic Church. Thus, cooperation was the key to transporting goods across the region in order to serve the needs of all countries.

Major security challenges

Illicit trade in narcotics

The Mediterranean region does not only connect many paths of cultures and many trade routes, but it also establishes routes for unlawful activities, including the trade in narcotics, such as heroin and cocaine. The illicit trade in drugs and other narcotics-related substances poses a significant threat to the security, stability, and public health of the countries in the region. There are many reasons for the presence of narcotics in that region such as the geographical location, socio-economic inequalities, and political instability. The Mediterranean's geopolitical location between Europe, Asia, and Africa transforms it into an attractive route for drug traffickers. The numerous ports as well as the close distance to narcotics "Motherlands" such as Asia and North Africa facilitate the transportation of narcotics.

The illicit drug trade in the Mediterranean region poses, as stated before, a great danger to public health. The presence of drugs motivates many people to consume them, which could essentially result in a dramatic increase in drug addictions. Apart from public safety and healthcare concerns, one of the most important consequences is organized crime. Organized crime assists the production, trafficking, and distribution of drugs across the region. Should they not achieve their goals, they will deploy violence, consequently indicating and immensely affecting the major breaches of security.

Maritime Piracy

Maritime piracy in the Mediterranean region has been a longstanding concern, affecting the safety and security of commercial shipping, coastal communities, and seafarers. Although piracy in the Mediterranean is not as prevalent as in some other regions, incidents have occurred over the years, particularly in specific areas of the Mediterranean Sea.

During the Medieval period, piracy was widespread through groups such as the Barbary pirates from North Africa, which captured ships for ransom or plunder. In recent years, this phenomenon has become less frequent in the Mediterranean basin, due to the established security in the region. Nevertheless, it still poses a threat to maritime activities. Certain areas of the Mediterranean Sea, including the Strait of Gibraltar, the Gulf of Aden, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the coast of North Africa, have witnessed piracy incidents throughout the past few years. Political turmoil, socio-economic factors such as poverty, high unemployment rates, and the lack of education, along with illegal activities including human and drug trafficking, are the reasons for piracy both in the past as well as nowadays.

Terrorism

Terrorism has been a major security challenge in the Mediterranean region for many decades. It manifests in the form of domestic extremist groups and international terrorist organizations. Political instability, social injustice, and conflicts in neighboring regions contribute to the rise of such radical groups. Some countries in the Mediterranean region have experienced extremist national groups who are trying to pursue political or separatist goals. However, between these groups are some exceptions, such as the Basque separatist movement Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) in Spain and the Red Brigades in Italy.

These groups targeted government institutions, infrastructure, and security forces in order to achieve political goals or to promote their ideology. They used both violent and non-violent means including assassination, bombings, kidnappings, extortion, and

intimidation as well as various attacks on special forces. They are not characterized as terrorists in that sense. The presence of transnational terrorist organizations including Al-Qaeda and ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) who fight for religious reasons, political differences, and social injustices in the Mediterranean region, is highly noticeable. The tactics used by these groups include suicide bombings, armed attacks, kidnappings, and social media platforms used for recruitment campaigns.

The 2015 Paris attacks were terrorist attacks planned and executed by ISIS terrorists in Paris, France. On November 13, gunmen and suicide bombers targeted several venues, including concert halls, sports stadiums, and restaurants, killing 130 people and injuring hundreds of others.

Figure 2: Mourning for the dead in Paris, France[9]

The attack shocked the world, and security measures throughout countries including the UK were strengthened. These targeted attacks highlighted the ongoing threat of terrorism and the need for protection. They initiated debates on national security, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism efforts. Thus, it is undeniable that the aforementioned incident played a catalytic role in the establishment of larger international movements of solidarity as well as an increased dedication to the global battle against terrorism.

The Mediterranean region has seen many foreign fighters, individuals entering the region to travel to war zones in order to join extremist groups. The conflicts in Syria and Iraq are quite attractive for foreign fighters from the Mediterranean and beyond. Nonetheless, the repatriation of these fighters presents enormous security threats, as

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[9] Bremmer, Ian. "Paris Terror Attacks: The Economic Fallout." *Time, 19 November 2015*, https://time.com/4120187/paris-attacks-economic-cost-terror/.

they may seek to carry out attacks or radicalize others inside the Mediterranean basin, an action that would result in instability in the region. Therefore, countries use intelligence systems to identify such fighters and legally prosecute them for their criminal activities.

Terrorism in the Mediterranean region has significant consequences on regional stability, economic development, and tourism. This phenomenon occurs mostly in countries like Tunisia, Egypt, and Turkey. The high levels of poverty attract many terrorists in order to recruit people that feel exploited by society. To add to that, the countless attacks targeted at tourists have essentially led to a decline in tourism. The recession of tourism causes negative effects on the already fragile economies of such countries, considering that the local economies of many Mediterranean countries mostly rely on tourism. Terrorism can cause destabilization of the political situation and therefore, security becomes once again vulnerable to threats and dangers. Fear, suspicion, and insecurity are only some of the emotions that terrorists spread across countries. There are lots of times when terrorists even overthrew governments through radical means, an action that could be characterized as the most extreme situation that can prevail.

Migration Crisis

The Arab Spring was a series of political protests which were held in the Middle East as well as in the North Africa (MENA) region in 2010, primarily in Tunisia. The main cause of it was people's dissatisfaction with authoritarian rule, corruption, economic inequality, and lack of sociopolitical freedom. Unemployment rates, increased food prices, and the lack of opportunities among younger people were only part of the consequences.

It began in Tunisia in December 2010 with protests when Mohamed Bouazizi, a street vendor, set himself on fire due to his frustration regarding the oppressive actions conducted by local authorities. The Tunisian government decided to use violence against the protesters, however, they could not cease the huge movement which was created. The movement ended with the overthrow of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, who was in power for over two decades. The Tunisian protests were an inspiration for many people in neighboring countries that shared the same values and the same passion for equality, political reforms, and democratic governance. Protests began in Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain, with one of the most important ones being in Egypt.

Mass protests broke out in Egypt in January 2011. The main demand was the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak who was in power for three decades. Eventually, Mubarak resigned; this marked the beginning of a new chapter for Egypt.

In Libya, the rivalry between the military of Muammar al-Qaddafi, the dictator, and opposition groups, escalated into an armed revolt. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces intervened when the rebel troops appeared to lose ground, thus they failed to overthrow Qaddafi. He was eventually overturned by rebel forces in August 2011 and later assassinated in October 2011.

The effects of the Arab Spring were both local and global. It highlighted people's desire for social fairness, political change, and increased participation in the government. The Arab Spring tried to underline as well as justify the connection between stability and democracy in a country, the role and function of external actors, such as NATO, as well as the future of the MENA region which is vulnerable to conflicts. Cooperation was the key aspect of this series of events. Such actions contribute even unintentionally to strengthening cooperation and security in the Mediterranean and specifically in the MENA region.

However, not all countries achieved their goals without any cost. For instance, the civil war that broke out in Syria led to a huge refugee crisis in the Mediterranean Basin. More than 6.8 million Syrians were obliged to leave their country and find a better life in Europe or neighboring countries in the MENA region.[10] In fact, the vast majority of refugees fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt as well as Germany and Greece. The biggest challenge is the transportation of the refugees for those who are willing to start their life in a European country. This essentially means that they need to travel through the Mediterranean Sea, legally or not, thus posing a threat to the security of the region. Accidents and deaths occur, leading to the responsibility falling on the country that owns the maritime border. Thus, cooperation cannot be achieved because countries tend to shift the responsibility to other states rather than admitting their role in potential accidents.

Over 100 people were saved after a fishing boat overturned close to Pylos, Greece. However, 80 people died from drowning.[11] The event took place in the Ionian Sea, and when a distress call was made, the Greek Coast Guard and nearby fishermen responded quickly. The rescue mission, which included several boats and a helicopter, was successful in pulling all of the people from the sea. The rescued people—believed to be migrants or refugees trying to enter Europe—were handed over to local authorities in order for them

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[10] "Syria Refugee Crisis Explained." *USA for UNHCR. The Un Refugee Agency,* www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/.

[11] "Hundreds of Refugees and Migrants Feared Dead and Missing in Worst Sea Tragedy off Greece in Recent Years – IOM and UNHCR Call for Coordinated Action and Safe Pathways." *International Organization for Migration (IOM) Greece,* https://greece.iom.int/news/hundreds-refugees-and-migrants-feared-dead-and-missing-worst-sea-tragedy-greece-recent-years-iom-and-unhcr-call-coordinated-action-and-safe-pathways.

to receive medical care and be identified. The tragedy serves as a reminder of the persistent difficulties and dangers people who travel risky distances across the Mediterranean Sea confront.

Figure 3: Refugees attempting to cross the Mediterranean on an old and unmaintained boat[12]

Environmental degradation

The Mediterranean region, known for its beauty and biodiversity, is facing significant environmental degradation. Human activities, rapid urbanization, unsustainable resource exploitation, and climate change are only a few reasons that have led to environmental impairment. Obviously, such an issue poses a threat to the flora and fauna of the region. Coastal regions in the Mediterranean have experienced extensive development, driven by tourism, population growth, and economic activities. Unplanned urbanization, construction of infrastructure, and tourism-related developments have resulted in habitat loss, destruction of natural landscapes, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters. The Mediterranean Sea faces numerous pollution challenges, including marine litter, oil spills, chemical pollution, overfishing, and natural habitat destruction. The impact on the environment and the climate change is huge: the sea level rises (coastal erosion) and coral reefs are destroyed (coral bleaching).

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[12] "Massive Loss of Life Reported in Latest Mediterranean Tragedy." *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),* www.unhcr.org/news/news/massive-loss-life-reported-latest-mediterranean-tragedy.

Figure 4: French firefighting airplane over a forest in Evia, Greece[13]

One of the most striking examples of cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin is the collaborative effort during the wildfires in Evia, Greece in 2021. It was one of the deadliest fires in recent history[14]. Due to the large area that it covered, the need for personnel and equipment was enormous. Thus, countries both from the Mediterranean area, as well as Europe and the Middle East, assisted Greece. In fact, the contribution of Spain, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Italy, and France was crucial. Countries set aside their disagreements and conflicts and collaboratively tackled an environmental issue, highlighting therefore the cooperation in the region. However, countries from Northern Africa excluding Egypt did not provide any help in combatting the wildfires. This is a typical example which illustrates the need for cooperation in the region. Had more countries from the Mediterranean Basin assisted this effort, then the issue might have been addressed earlier and more effectively. Therefore, it is clear that the need for cooperation has never been more vital.

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[13] Trujillo, Marco. "Blaze Ravages Evia Island 'like a Horror Movie' on Sixth Day of Greek Fires." *Reuters, Thomson Reuters, 9 August 2021,* www.reuters.com/world/europe/blaze-ravages-evia-island-sixth-day-greek-wildfires-2021-08-08/.

[14] Clapp, Alexander. "The Fires in Greece Are a Terrifying Warning." *The New York Times, 27 August 2021,* www.nytimes.com/2021/08/27/opinion/greece-fires-climate-change.html.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Egypt

Egypt plays a crucial role in the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. As a key country in North Africa, it actively engages in counterterrorism efforts, border security, and maritime surveillance. Egypt's military capabilities and diplomatic influence contribute to maintaining stability in the region, tackling transnational threats, and fostering cooperation among Mediterranean countries. It collaborates with regional partners through initiatives like the Union for the Mediterranean, aiming to address shared challenges and promote regional security.

Spain

Spain actively participates in initiatives such as the 5+5 Defense Initiative, while contributing to political dialogue, common military exercises, and information sharing. Spain's geographical position is a place of utmost geopolitical importance. The Strait of Gibraltar in the region connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. Any illegal goods or even any terrorists gain access to the *high seas*, highlighting therefore the danger that exists in the Strait. Consequently, maritime security and border controls are two of the most important security measures that should be undertaken there. Spain cooperates with neighboring countries to combat irregular migration, organized crime, and enhance regional stability which are three of the main goals that countries in the region should achieve.

Tunisia

Tunisia, as a North African country, is actively engaged in counterterrorism, border control, and combatting migration challenges. Tunisia's political stability is vital for the overall security of the region, and its collaboration with other Mediterranean countries, such as through the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The country's stability further contributes to fostering cooperation and addressing shared challenges, such as the migration challenge. It is worth mentioning that Tunisia is characterized as the country that "developed" the Arab Spring movement, thus, it is important to maintain political stability in the region.

Italy

Italy and its wider region have always been actively involved in the strengthening of security and cooperation ever since the creation of the Roman Empire. It has a catalytic role in addressing migration, maritime security, and counterterrorism due to its strategic location at the center of the Mediterranean. Italy actively participates in multilateral initiatives, such as the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with the aim to enhance regional

security. As a matter of fact, it cooperates perfectly with other countries having the most success in addressing issues such as human trafficking, terrorism, and instability in neighboring regions, mainly in African countries.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The security of the Mediterranean is on top of the agenda of the OSCE, acknowledging in that way its importance in the region. Through dialogues, confidence-building measures, and cooperation with Mediterranean countries, the organization aims to promote political stability and address shared challenges, mostly acts of terrorism. It assists the cooperation between the Mediterranean countries and takes the initiative to tackle issues through arms control and counterterrorism. This essentially means that OSCE strengthens the security of the region at the same time.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Even though the primary focus of NATO was the collective defense in the North Atlantic area, it acknowledges the geopolitical importance of the Mediterranean region. NATO conducts maritime security operations as well as counterterrorism efforts in the Mediterranean Basin. It also collaborates with countries from the region, while performing common exercises and contributing to constructive and effective efforts intending to enhance security and cooperation in the region. NATO, being an intergovernmental organization focused on its military alliance, also addresses acts of terrorism and regional instability.

European Union (EU)

The European Union has an active role in the issue. It promoted a detailed strategy of actions and initiatives that consists of addressing migration, maritime security, and political stability. The Migration Partnership Framework and Operation Sophia are only two of the efforts that the EU undertook regarding security and cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin. The key objectives of these initiatives were the tackling of irregular migration, the enhancement of border controls, and the severance of human trafficking networks. Be that as it may, the EU has failed to tackle the issue effectively up to date, having introduced only the EU's Migration Partnership Framework which focuses on the cooperation between the countries and not the security of it. This main point of focus can be seen as a major drawback, regardless of the efforts of the European Union.

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

The Union for the Mediterranean aims to enhance regional cooperation, dialogue, and stability in the Mediterranean. It was founded on the 13th of July 2008 and consists of 43

members, from Europe, Africa, and Asia. The UfM enables discussions and initiatives regarding various issues, including security, counterterrorism, migration, and economic development. By enhancing dialogue and cooperation among its members, the UfM contributes to strengthening security and addressing common challenges in the Mediterranean region. Thus, it achieves both cooperation and security at the same time which is truly remarkable.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
4 April 1949	Creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
23 March 1983	The 5+5 Defense Initiative is established
1 November 1993	Founding of the European Union (EU)
December 1994	Mediterranean Dialogue is initiated by NATO
November 1995	The Barcelona Process is created
13 July 2008	The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is founded
2 December 2009	Introduction of the resolution: "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region"
17 December 2010	Arab Sprig Movement
22 June 2015 – 31^t March 2020	The mandate of Operation Sophia is active
13 November 2015	Terrorist attack in Paris, France
June 2016	The EU's Migration Partnership Framework is founded
3 August 2021	Wildfires in Evia, Greece
14 June 2023	Accident involving refugees in Pylos, Greece

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES, AND EVENTS

Strengthening of Security and Cooperation in The Mediterranean Region/2nd December 2009 /A/RES/64/68/[15]

The resolution recognizes that security in the Mediterranean is closely connected to European security as well as international peace and security. In that way, the significance of stability and cooperation in the Mediterranean region is highlighted. Furthermore, it praises Mediterranean countries for their efforts to combat common challenges and issues through excellent cooperation between them, one of the key points of the issue at hand. It also encourages Mediterranean countries to strengthen cooperation in combatting terrorism, international crime, illicit arms, and drug trafficking, since these issues pose significant threats to peace, security, and stability in the Mediterranean basin. The resolution acknowledges that the abolishment of economic and social inequalities in the Mediterranean region and the fostering of understanding among cultures contribute to enhancing peace, security, cooperation, and stability among Mediterranean countries. In conclusion, this resolution is a launching point to engage the involved countries in fostering cooperation and security, but the order of things has still not really changed. Nonetheless, since it addressed such an important issue, it is indeed considered a successful one.

5+5 Defense Initiative/23RD March 1983[16]

The 5+5 defense concept is a collaborative defense strategy that includes five Northern Mediterranean countries – Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal – and five Southern Mediterranean countries – Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia –. The main objectives are the improvement of regional security, collaboration, communication, and information exchange. The strategy includes counterterrorism, border security, and swift response to disasters. The effectiveness of such a strategy relies on the long-term commitment of the participating countries, the collaboration and cooperation between each other as well as the ability to tackle security issues in the region.

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[15] United Nations. "Strengthening of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region" United Nations Digital Library, www.digitallibrary.un.org/record/672683.

[16] "2023." 5Plus5 Defense, www.5plus5defenceinitiative.org/.

EU's Migration Partnership Framework/June 2016[17]

The EU's migration partnership framework (MPF) was launched in 2016. Its aim is the combatting of migration challenges in the region while cooperating with countries all over the world that tackle this issue. Such a framework is really important for the region since it includes countries both from Africa and Asia. The strive for improvement of migration management, border control, and fundamental causes of the migration challenge are undertaken through political dialogue and financial support. Some believe that the framework has promoted cooperation between the countries while also eradicating migration flows. Others think that the framework has serious breaches of the human rights of migrants. Regardless of the conflicted opinions, it is undeniable that such a framework can indeed be deemed a successful one since it has stimulated cooperation, which is one essential part of this study guide's main focus.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Barcelona Process

The Barcelona Process (Euro-Mediterranean Partnership) was a political and economic initiative dating back to 1995 with the aim to promote cooperation and political dialogue between the European Union (EU) and countries in the Mediterranean region, mainly part of the MENA. The Barcelona Process had several key objectives, such as political and security cooperation, economic and trade cooperation, and sociocultural cooperation. The significance of cooperation is underlined in every single objective of this process. However, the Barcelona Process failed to achieve any of the established goals. A reason for that is the relationships between the countries as well as the political situations and regimes in African, Asian as well as European countries. The conflicts in the Mediterranean region on the one side and the well-functioning democratic governments on the other do not contribute to reaching a conclusion and achieving common goals. The economic inequality between EU member states and countries of the MENA does not promote fair trade for everyone, thus proving to be inefficient.

Operation Sophia

Another naval mission of the European Union is Operation Sophia in 2015. The ultimate goal was to combat human trafficking as well as the smuggling of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. The operation was named after a Somalian baby born on a ship involved in a rescue operation. The key objectives of Operation Sophia were the abolishment of human trafficking networks, the search and rescue operations as well as the training and capacity building. However, Operation Sophia failed to achieve their established objectives. The responsibility of

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[17] Partnership Framework - EEAS Website,
www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/factsheet_ec_format_migration_partnership_framework_update_2.pdf.

the immigrants posed a significant obstacle to Operation Sophia since there was not a body established which would be responsible for the distribution of refugees to the countries in the Mediterranean region. Many countries did not want to take responsibility and provide housing for the refugees. The limited resources for such a huge operation pose a significant barrier when trying to take down enormous human trafficking networks.

Mediterranean Dialogue

Initiated by NATO in 1994, the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) was aimed at enhancing cooperation and enhancing security in the Mediterranean region. However, it has faced challenges in effectively addressing complex issues of cooperation and security in the region. One reason for the somewhat inefficiency of the MD is the diverse as well as conflicting interests of the Member States. Participating states have different security infrastructures and approaches to regional conflicts. Historical rivalries do not contribute to achieving cooperation, since the causes of the conflict are deeply rooted. Such a diversity of issues makes it difficult to reach and develop effective solutions and strategies that include all the security challenges of the region. Another issue is the restricted point of view of the MD's activities. The activities are mainly active on military coordination and counterterrorism. Migration, maritime conflicts, and socio-economic development are not well acknowledged by the MD in an effort to enhance security in the region.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Enhance maritime security

Since the maritime field is the most vulnerable to threats, including illegal trafficking, arms smuggling as well as piracy, it is necessary to enhance maritime security by conducting more frequent maritime patrols as a means of preventing security threats. Control in the maritime field is harder than in the aviation one. People working at docks are also often bribed by external actors to "overlook" the trafficking of drugs or humans or any other illegal good. Consequently, background checks, along with regular interrogations, can be conducted by intergovernmental organizations such as Interpol, so as to prevent the bribing of workers. The installation of better and more efficient surveillance devices is also another measure as well as the upgrade of the digital systems currently used in many ports.

Counterterrorism measures

The deployment of more special agents by counterterrorism organizations is vital, due to the increase of extremist groups in the Mediterranean basin. The improvement of intelligence sharing amongst governments and organizations will definitely play a catalytic role in preventing any terrorist attacks or also in taking down whole networks. The enhancement of border controls

in means such as personnel as well as equipment will prevent the journey of potentially dangerous people of extremist groups as well as the spread of extremist ideas.

Political Dialogue and Involvement of Organizations

It is of utmost importance to enhance political dialogue between countries and the significance of such an initiative must be stressed in order to resolve potential conflicts in the region, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, political dialogue alone will not resolve such an issue. The involvement of organizations such as the UN is crucial in restoring stability in the region. History has indeed proven that when a political and financial crisis occur at the same time, people become vulnerable to manipulation, propaganda and extremist ideologies, due to their critical thinking being hindered. Therefore, propaganda spreads quickly among large numbers of people. This creates unrest and chaos in society, destabilizing the political situation.

Cooperating with the GA Legal Committee (GA6) in order to establish a legal framework regarding combatting terrorism and restoring regional security

Cooperation with GA6, the Legal Committee of the General Assembly, could be crucial in this regard. By establishing a strong legal framework to combat terrorism and restore regional security, international institutions such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) can prosecute terrorists, strengthen the rule of law, improve international cooperation, and ensure the protection of human rights, which are most often violated in countries where terrorism acts occur, such as Turkey, Egypt, and Tunisia. An effective legal system proposed by the GA6 should allow not only the ICJ and the ICC to prosecute terrorists and criminals, but also the national courts of each corresponding country. It will also allow them to intervene in their financial systems and prevent the spread of extremist ideas.

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