North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Study Guide
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I. Letter From The Secretary-General

Most distinguished participants, 

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all to the third edition of Koç University Model United Nations Conference (KUMUN). My name is Emre İlker Karataş and I have the honor and pleasure to serve you as the Secretary-General of this edition of KUMUN. Under the umbrella of the Koç University MUN Club, KUMUN has been growing ever since its start. In its third edition, we are proud to say that KUMUN will be a one-of-a-kind boutique conference of crisis simulations. 

Bearing in mind the theme of “Bringing Order to Chaos”, we have chosen one of the most important regional organizations in the world: North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Participants shall try to bring order to the region filled with terrorist groups, piracy activities, and organized crimes: Mediterranean and broader Middle East. 

Though common in most MUN simulations, making NATO in KUMUN 2016 different than other simulations required and will require a devoted person. Regardless of her age, I believe that she is one of the most successful MUNers in Turkish MUN Society. Therefore, I would like to thank Ms. Simay İldeniz, responsible Under-Secretary-General for not rejecting my offer to be a part of this conference.

Lastly, I would like to say that even though these committees are designed to be of high quality, keep in mind that they are also designed for you to enjoy the academic content. Therefore, I would like to finish my words with saying that you should enjoy while you are bringing order to the Mediterranean and broader Middle East. Should you have any questions regarding the content, you can contact the Academic Team through kumunsecretariat@ku.edu.tr

Sincerely,

Emre İlker Karataş

Secretary-General of KUMUN 2016
II. Letter From The Under-Secretary-General

Dear participants of North Atlantic Treaty Organization,

I am Simay İldeniz, currently a sophomore at Hüseyin Avni Sözen Anadolu Lisesi and I have attended MUN conferences for three years in my positions as a delegate, academic assistant, rapporteur, and committee director and Deputy-Secretary-General. I would also like to express my gratitude as standing humbled before serving as the Under-Secretary-General responsible for the NATO 2016. I would like to thank firstly honorable Secretary-General Mr. Emre İlker Karataş and his deputy Ms. Ezgi Ercan for giving me the opportunity and helping me through the preparation process.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization will be discussing the agenda item ‘Situation in the Mediterranean and broader Middle East’. In light of this agenda, the committee will focus on the general problems lying on the Mediterranean shores in the fields of terrorism, drug trafficking, economic development along with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Moreover, apart from this prepared document, further research on the topic is highly encouraged for delegates to become more familiar with the issue.

Also, the delegates can contact me via simayildeniz@gmail.com regarding questions related to the agenda item and rules of procedure.

Kindest Regards,

Simay İldeniz

Under-Secretary-General responsible for North Atlantic Treaty Organization
III. Introduction to NATO

After the Second World War, the world faced with the instability being divided into two poles facing with a large tension in the leadership of two major powers, these powers being United States of America and the Soviet Union, and their politics of influential sphere until the early 1990s.

During the post-Second World War, as a result of Russian Federation keeping its military power still and trying to spread communism to the other European countries as well as United Nations being unsuccessful keeping the peace and preventing instability, United States of America, Belgium, United Kingdom, Iceland, Canada, Luxembourg, Norway, and Portugal signed a treaty and founded North Atlantic Treaty Organization\(^1\) having the 51\(^{st}\) clause of Charter of the United Nations as a ground. According to the 51\(^{st}\) clause of UN Charter:

Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherit right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defense shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect

the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take any time such action as it deems necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.  

During Cold War, United States legalized the usage of internal sources and managed to unite the countries that see the Soviet Union as a threat with following a Containment Policy and having NATO as a dynamic power in the Europe.

**INFORMATION BOX:**

**Containment Policy:** Containment was the strategy of the United States towards the Soviet Union during Cold War, which aimed to limit the spread of the Communism ideology. Yet, this strategy was never a defensive one but it was used as an instrument to achieve victory in the Cold War.

In 1989, the world experienced significant politic changes such as; the fall of the Berlin Wall as well as single party regime communist governments, foundation of independent states apart from the Soviet Union and the end of the blocks in Europe.

In light of these changes, NATO revised its strategy and structure. In 1991, with the adoption of New Strategy Concept, the Alliance considered the collective defence, indivisibility of the security, sufficient protection of military powers, and the Trans-Atlantic connection in the Rome Summit. Additionally, new plans concerning the compulsion of peace were included according to the 5\(^{th}\) clause of the Washington Treaty.

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On the other hand, NATO’s enlargement has been accelerated since 1994. As a result of this policy; Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic became official members of NATO in the 1999 Washington Summit. NATO experienced its latest enlargement in 2009 having Albania and Croatia as official allies. ⁶

As a result, members of the Alliance with enlarging missions decided to change their policies along with the modern strategy concept in order to take part actively in the new pattern of the world.

IV. Introduction of the Agenda Item ‘Situation in the Mediterranean and Broader Middle East’

As one of the inevitable outcomes of the Cold War, the significance of nation-state has increased carrying an important role in the international politics. The tendency in international politics has changed into prevention and management of the conflicts and threats with using local orders. The same situation has been one of the sources of instability in the Mediterranean basin.

The Mediterranean region has been characterized by some small regions nowadays. On the other hand, it has been a dynamic area in which the exchange of knowledge, opinions, technologies, commercial activities, people and values should be realized as well. It continues to be a bridge between the East and the West and also the North and the South. Therefore, region-wide security cooperation framework is needed to prevent any threat of instability to safety in the region. ⁷

Today, the Mediterranean struggles with challenges ranging from social and economic constraints to negligence of international law, to nationalism and extremism of arms trade

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to pollution. Despite having entirely different traditions, states in the Mediterranean basin share a desire for cooperation to face with these problems.⁸

Most of the former initiatives have failed to bring peace and stability to the region being unsuccessful to define common rules and principles. Previous analyses have also concluded that there is a need for a comprehensive framework in order to combat terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and drug trafficking along with the psychological barriers to the foundation of a region-wide cooperation and collaboration.

V. Security Challenges in Mediterranean

A. General Problems

Considering the fact that the Mediterranean is a broad geographical area, the security analysis of the region is a quite difficult encompassing 3 sub-regional groupings and 19 countries that are the Maghreb, the Mashriq, and the Southern Europe. Despite sharing a common sea, the breadth of the geography also expresses the nature of the issues. This is only an indication of major differences between the North and the South.⁹

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Meanwhile, there is a decline in living standards, political instability and increasing birth rates in Southern Mediterranean; the northern shore countries are politically stable, economically capable and part of the European integration process.\textsuperscript{10}

In Mediterranean, especially the southern part of the region, a profound crisis is undergoing, which is one of the reasons for the growing migration and importance of Muslim communities. The possible consequences of the undergoing crisis regarding foreign policy as well as security are more a subject of evident to the governments and their points of view to the situation.\textsuperscript{11}

Sorts of challenges are topics of discussion regarding political and institutional problems and the perceptions of the Arab security, social and economic challenges as well as the military dimension and the low-level violence caused by the terrorism in the region.\textsuperscript{12}

1. Terrorism and Drug Trafficking & Organized Crime

The Mediterranean region suffers from the organized crime and terrorist activities adding the existence of rogue states sponsoring terrorism in the area in order to become a regional power. The United States and Europe have entirely different approaches regarding these activities. The US unequivocally declares the countries sponsoring terrorism; in the meantime, Europe imposes specific sanctions of economic nature.

For instance, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya are the two Mediterranean states that are mentioned in the list of state-sponsored terrorism by the US. As a result, these countries are left out of the multilateral initiatives to assure the peace and provide stability in the region since the existence of such countries is a significant element of instability.\textsuperscript{13}

\textsuperscript{10} Ibid
\textsuperscript{13} Ibid.
In order to combat terrorism and organized crime, the presence of an international cooperation structure and the ability to follow common state policies are necessitated which is far from accomplishment with the current coherence in the area.\textsuperscript{14}

Geopolitical Drug Observatory (GDO) states that in Tunisia, Paris, Morocco and Syria-Lebanon are four groups in the North Africa and the Middle East who are engaged in the process of the production as well as the transfer of drugs. Also, Morocco is reported to be the fourth in worldwide to export poppy adding that the main destination of Moroccan poppy export is some European countries.

The drug trafficking was first initiated by the North American illegal immigrants. So, the double traffic of drug trafficking and the illegal immigrants became one of the major concerns of the European countries.\textsuperscript{15} As a part of this traffic, the money laundering has become evident conceiving a significant safety problem to the social order of Europe.

**FURTHER READINGS:**

- For the active terrorist organizations in the region, see: [www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2014/239407.htm](http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2014/239407.htm)

2. Economic Development

Two shores of the Mediterranean have completely different development records on the economy. While the northern countries have prosperous industrial economies that are interdependent within the framework of the European integration process, the southern


states are suffering heavily from labor-intensive industries, particularly tourism and agriculture.\textsuperscript{16}

Also, there is a gap between oil exporters and the other south of the Mediterranean. Nearly 40\% of the natural gas and oil needs of the European countries are supplied from the southern Mediterranean countries. European dependency on Maghrebi natural resources is expected to increase as well.\textsuperscript{17}

Furthermore, particularly the Maghreb countries are engaged in a process of integration with the states of the northern shore; however, they do not have the capacity to influence decision-making process that makes them open to the aspects of economic fluctuations.\textsuperscript{18}

3. **Fundamentalism of Islam**

There has been a public advocate of the radical Islamic movements in several Mediterranean countries. Islam remains as a quite significant element in the Mediterranean countries’ socio-cultural, economic and political systems even though it is becoming less possible that an Islamic extremist movement will substitute a state of the region. The main challenge to the establishment of a Mediterranean community is the perception of political Islam by the European states as the most crucial threat to the present political system in the Western Europe. As for the North, the public opinion and the political elite have improved thought that democracy and Islam are two concepts that cannot be compatible.\textsuperscript{19}

The Western culture and the civilization are thought to be risked by the Islamic fundamentalism that is also referred to as the biggest ever challenge since the collapse of the Communist bloc. In addition, some believe that the Islam is threatening the Western type norms, values, and institutions.\textsuperscript{20}

So long as the northern perception of Islam remains as such, Islamic states are accumulating support across the region. Political Islam continues to be an increasingly expressive force in the non-state building process throughout the region and it is also made apparent in foreign

\textsuperscript{17} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{18} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{20} Ibid.
and security policy orientations of the regional countries. On the other hand, in several Southern Mediterranean states, populations are devoted to more conventional types of Islam, which do not pose a threat to the Western culture and societies.  

4. Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Increasing Military Expenditures in the Region

The Mediterranean includes defense and political culture matters with diverse approaches that shape the regional relations in the area. As an outcome, reduction in arms control and defense spending measures are ranging from stability to nuclear disarmament, both of them being elements of conventional political culture. In addition, the proliferation of arms in the south, both nuclear and conventional, stands as the dominant propensity due to existence of several low-intensify conflicts.  

Military is a significant element in state-building process in the south of Mediterranean keeping its importance after establishment of the governments that are democratically elected. One of the other essential elements is the military modernization, which is necessary for national independence for asserting national sovereignty. Thereupon, entirely different approaches are followed in two shores of Mediterranean with regards to defense issues. Northern littoral states aim for intense international collaboration to downgrade the existing arms systems. Nevertheless, southern coastal states are willing to upgrade their military capabilities.  

Moreover, most pressing missile proliferation and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) risks are currently observed for “South-South” division rather than “North-South”. This is due to Southern countries’ understanding of the strategic security, which recognizes the regional power and prestige of such weapons. In addition, there are significant risks with regards to resources and conventional clashes. There is a potential for a direct military

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21 Horn, Matthew Mark. NATO, THE MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE, AND THE MIDDLE EAST: IT IS TIME FOR NATO TO GET SERIOUS. N.d., N.d.


confrontation due to the presence of traditional and nuclear arsenals, particularly among
the southern littoral countries.\textsuperscript{24}

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
Country & Nuclear & Biological-Toxicological & Chemical \\
\hline
USA & deployed & terminated & dismantling \\
\hline
Turkey & research & none & none \\
\hline
Iraq & Weaponization & stockpiled & Used several times \\
\hline
Iran & development & Development deployed & Used \\
\hline
Syria & research & development & Deployed \\
\hline
Israel & deployed & Production capability & Production capability \\
\hline
Egypt & Research development & Stockpiled & Used \\
\hline
Libya & Research & Development & Deployed \\
\hline
Tunisia & - & - & - \\
\hline
Algeria & Research & Research & Development \\
\hline
Morocco & - & - & - \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{WMD Capability in the Mediterranean\textsuperscript{25}}
\end{table}

\textbf{B. Northern Innovation}

The security situation in the Mediterranean was defined by the outline of and association
with external forces and therefore was occasionally peripheral to the security. The security
concerns or especially the term ‘security’ is usually referred to the internal problems in the
southern Mediterranean countries. Mediterranean had been the area that the Western
states had intense interests and safety concerns for the non-European Mediterranean
countries that were in the process of integration into the European structures.

\textsuperscript{24} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{25} Source: Monterey Institute for International Studies, Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies, see: http://www.cns.miis.edu/research/wmdme/index.htm
Major threats to security are results of vulnerability to any economic fluctuation, increasing religious fundamentalism, current instability and rejection of modernity. From the northern point of view, these could be solved by conclusion of several military pacts. From the perspective of southern shore countries, it is considered to be essential to re-examine the concept of security, provided a Mediterranean-wide partnership and collaboration is specified as the aim. The propensity to hold threats of instability and insecurity during the processes of shaping military and political alliances has continuously dominated Europe’s relations with the area.26

During the post-Cold War period, the northern security organizations took military and peacekeeping operations to their hands, which caused mistrust and suspicion. Southern states evaluated these sorts of interventions as an example of the idea of Western supremacy and they also questioned NATO as military pact after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union and the transformation of NATO after the Cold War have been the sources for the concerns of southern littoral states.27

Furthermore, establishment of EUROFOR (land-based) and EUROMARFOR (sea-based) operations by Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, who are the four Mediterranean members of the Western European Union (WEU), was for balancing defense policies of the Mediterranean region and for guiding reasonable actions have been beholden by the Southern Mediterranean states as new instruments of Western domination and supremacy.28

As a conclusion, the region lacks a commonly accepted definition of the term ‘security’ since two shores of the Mediterranean have different security concerns. The northern Mediterranean security perception is focused on the military aspect, while the southern part of the region associates security with non-military issues and internal security challenges.

27 Ibid.
VI. Mediterranean Dialogue of NATO

The North Atlantic Council established NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue (hereafter referred to as MD) in 1994, which currently also incorporates seven non-NATO countries of the Mediterranean region: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia.29

The MD is an essential organ of NATO’s adaptation during the post-Cold War period, which indicates the point of view of the Alliance that the European security is linked to the stability in the Mediterranean region. This is also considered a significant step in the policy of the Alliance for the cooperation.30

Furthermore, MD covers and aims to achieve better mutual understanding, and to dispel any misconceptions about NATO among Dialogue countries and to contribute to the regional security and stability.

NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue has fulfilled its objectives since its inception and has transformed at the Istanbul Summit in 2004 building political bridges from one shore to the other. It has improved the mutual understanding between member countries and partners by organizing various conferences, which mainly aim developing synergy between two sides of Mediterranean. This enhancement has facilitated operational as well as political dialogues and strengthened an ambitious partnership, which has proved to be attractive enough for the two countries for a forum of stability and security in the region: Algeria and Jordan. Regardless of the fact that they were not among the original members but then, they decided to join the MD. After all, Egypt and Israel agreed to set up individual cooperation with NATO and to give testimony to strengthen links with the Atlantic Alliance. On the other hand, one of the essential dignities of the MD has been the creation of a framework, which has brought the most unpredictable conservations to review matters that were long considered taboo around the same table.31

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30 Kellock), Donatella Scatamacchia (Edited by J. Lindsay. NATO and the Greater Middle East: a challenge for multilateral dialogue and a need for a public diplomacy function. N.d.

The number of the joint activities has risen in larger distinct fields ranging from education access that is provided by the Alliance institutions to joint crisis managements and to military contacts for information exchange on antiterrorism. Along with the participation of Jordan, Egypt and Morocco in specific stabilization operations, which are conducted by NATO in Afghanistan and the Balkans, joint activities have taken into a form in operational terms. As one of the results of these programmes, Jordan’s border with Israel was cleared of mines, which had accumulated in the region earlier over decades. Also, cooperation has resulted in an increasing number of partner countries in Operation Active Endeavour.  

**INFORMATION BOX:**

Operation Active Endeavour is a maritime operation of NATO, which helps to deter terrorist activities in the Mediterranean Sea, and to secure one of the most important trade routes in the world. It was also among the initiatives launched in response to the 9/11 attacks.

Since the MD countries are concerned by the threat caused by the terrorist activities in the region and has been cooperation with NATO, Operation Active Endeavour helps by providing intelligence regarding suspicious shipping in their waters.

For Further Reading: [http://www.nato.int/cps/eu/natohq/topics_7932.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/eu/natohq/topics_7932.htm)

This has helped to provide information exchange and interoperability enhancement between monitoring forces on both sides. Besides, the Vice-Admiral Roberto Cesaretti sums up the positive aspect of the Active Endeavour to the process of the MD as: “The experience that NATO has acquired in the Active Endeavour has given the Alliance unparalleled expertise in this field.”

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32 Ibid.

33 NATO. «Operation Active Endeavour.» 26 March 2015. NATO. [http://www.nato.int/cps/eu/natohq/topics_7932.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/eu/natohq/topics_7932.htm).

34 Ibid.
On the other hand, there are some factors, which combine to slow down of the reinforcement of the MD. Firstly, there are political initiatives that institute cooperation mechanisms; for instance the Barcelona process founded by the European Union (EU), which set up its own security exchange mechanism in 1995. Further examples are Organization for the Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mediterranean Contact Group established in 1995, the “5+5” security and defence initiative set up in 2000 and also the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative focusing on the broader Middle East. 35 The diverse partnerships of Mediterranean states also have different contents that do not facilitate coordination as can be seen from the table below:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MD (NATO)</th>
<th>Barcelona/Extended (EU)</th>
<th>GCM (OSCE)</th>
<th>5+5 Initiative</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Mauritania</td>
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<td>Algeria</td>
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<td>Cyprus</td>
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</table>

The wealth of the initiatives is not certain and is perplexing for the partners, especially for the North African states that are involved in all partnerships. Although some of them do not have compunction regarding exploiting the attendant bureaucratic rivalry to accelerate their agendas. 36

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36 Ibid.
Within the Alliance, separate views of the Mediterranean space take the role of powerful brakes regarding a common policy for the harmonization of national agendas. While some Allies consider the Mediterranean as a transit route between the East and the West for exports and manufacturing, another approach to the Mediterranean is North-South cooperation based on security and economic interdependence. Nevertheless, these two visions meet in a common point concerning maritime security issues and campaign against terrorism. Also, arms sales and proposals for civil nuclear cooperation with the energy transactions stimulate rivalry among several Allies that are active in the region.\(^{37}\)

Except for the states of the northern Mediterranean shore, the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to threaten relations on the southern shore preventing the improvement of a positive dialogue. Moreover, the persistence of regional differences fuels rivalry on the south coast, such as the dispute over Algeria-Morocco border as well as the crises which are developing in the bordering African states such as Chad and Sudan.\(^{38}\)

A. Istanbul Summit

During a series of meetings between Deputy-Secretary-General of NATO, Ambassador Alessandro Minuto Rizzo, and the representatives of the Mediterranean Dialogue and Gulf Cooperation Council, the proposal endorsed by the leaders of the Alliance at Istanbul Summit for preparing a long-term cooperative process of both the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) and the MD aiming to create a spirit of a joint membership. Furthermore, it was decided that the interested countries in the region would be free to engage with NATO to determine the pace as well as the extent of the engagement taking into account their diversity and vital needs for the upcoming cooperative programmes.\(^{39}\)

\(^{37}\) Ibid.

\(^{38}\) Ibid.

For the purpose of upgrading the MD despite the initial objectives, the dialogue has both widened and deepened in the past decades. At Istanbul, the leaders of the Alliance suggested to upgrade the MD into a ‘genuine partnership’ with the following objectives;

- Achieving interoperability
- Developing defence reform
- Enhancing the existing political dialogue
- Contributing to the fight against terrorism.  

In order to achieve these objectives with certain priority areas the document titled ‘A More Ambitious and Expanded Framework for the Mediterranean Dialogue’ sets out the framework. This document also explains that the transformation of NATO can be focused on cooperative efforts via promoting democratic control of armed forces, combating terrorism with efficient information sharing, using joint public diplomacy initiatives, facilitating transparency in defence and budgeting, contributing to the works of the Alliance in regards to the threats posed by the weapons of mass destruction, enhancing civil-emergency planning etc.  

FURTHER READING:


In the wake of the Summit, NATO has determined a number of areas of practical cooperation with providing advice on defence planning, defence budgeting, defence reform and civil-military operations as well as promoting military-to-military cooperation for the contribution to interoperability through participating military exercises and related training.

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40 Ibid.
activities for the development of the ability for the participating countries’ forces to operate with the countries that contribute to NATO-led operations.42

Briefly, the ICI and the MD are separate but complementary programmes that serve for the same purpose: building strong cooperation with countries in the Mediterranean and the broader Middle East. Moreover, additional countries could be invited to participate in both programmes.

FURTHER READING:

http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/2004/06-istanbul/docu-cooperation.htm

B. Principles

The Dialogue remarks the view of the Alliance, which expresses that the security in Europe is nearly linked to the stability and security in the Mediterranean along with having a better mutual understanding, dispelling any misconceptions about NATO among Dialogue countries and contributing to regional stability and safety.

Moreover, the MD has a bilateral structure, which refers to the fact that the Dialogue countries can be analyzed within two groups: Three Maghreb countries (Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia) and three Mashriq countries (Egypt, Israel, and Jordan).43

INFORMATION BOX:

Mashriq: Countries, which are located between the Mediterranean and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Maghreb: A region of North and Northwest Africa between the Atlantic Ocean and Egypt, comprising the coastal plain and Atlas Mountains of Morocco, together with Algeria, Tunisia.44

42 Ibid.
It is not feasible to form a united whole out of the MD states, adding that they also choose the bilateral structure of the Dialogue. Additionally, the bilateral structure enables the Dialogue countries to entertain their sovereignty and individuality as nation-states. Bearing in mind the multilateral nature, the European-Mediterranean partnership process, which was launched by the European Union, did not go further from a dialogue between the Arab states and the EU since the bilateral structure did not provide a sense of marginalization on the part of the MD countries.

Furthermore, in order to reach a subsequent improvement, the Dialogue has been based upon various principles:

- **Non-discrimination**: The same basis is offered to all partners for their cooperation with NATO.
- **Self-differentiation**: Tailored approaches to the particular needs of MD partners are allowed; especially interested MD countries and NATO are allowed to frame their practical cooperation in a more prospective way following NATO’s policies and objectives for the MD by Individual Cooperation Programmes (ICP).
- **Inclusiveness**: All MD countries shall take responsibility as shareholders of the same effort of cooperation.
- **Two-way engagement**: NATO seeks the contribution of the partner countries for its achievement through a regular consultation process, which is called ‘two-way partnership’.
- **Non-imposition**: NATO does not insist on imposing anything on the MD partners. On the other hand, the partner countries are free to choose the extent of their cooperation and the pace.
- **Complementary and Mutual Reinforcement**: Efforts for the Mediterranean by the Dialogue and other international institutions are complementary and reinforcing. For instance:
  - Union For the Mediterranean by the European Union
  - Mediterranean Initiative by the OSCE

Five plus Five

- Diversity: The Dialogue fully respects to the different regional, political and cultural contexts of the partner countries.\(^{45}\)

Furthermore, activities within the MD exist on a self-funding basis. Nevertheless, the Allies assented to consider a request for the financial assistance in order to encourage the participation of Mediterranean partners in the Dialogue.\(^{46}\)

In addition, the MD aims to find a correlative role with other initiatives, since it does not indicate presence of any dispute to other institutional efforts. Two principles, mutual and complementary reinforcement, are attached great importance to NATO as well.\(^{47}\)

C. Challenges

NATO suffers from a crucial image problem with regards to the public opinion among the dialogue countries. The MD is perceived as an instrument of the West in order to comprehend the symptoms of the southern malaise. Regarding these problems, NATO may have to face with prospect to accomplish an effective deal in the MD.

Secondly, NATO faces challenge of the nature of the security issues present in the Mediterranean region. The primary interest of NATO was on the military containment of the Soviet Union during the Cold War, in light of this, NATO currently has a comparative degree of ‘hard security’ issues. On the other hand, the current challenges are the soft security matters dominating the current Mediterranean security situation. The dilemma for NATO on whether the hard or soft security issues shall have the precedence makes it difficult to unite the approach into a common denominator.\(^{48}\)

Many dialogue countries believe that the soft security issues should be the priority. However, beginning with soft security problems may create the environment facilitating modification of the image of NATO. Inside this framework, the collaboration can be widened to involve joint actions in education and training, military and people-to-people contacts,


\(^{46}\) Ibid.

\(^{47}\) Ibid.

joint seminars, humanitarian emergencies, workshops and the expert meetings, which can assist to elevate the conjunction of the security perception in the region. 49

Thirdly, transparency and information exchange carry importance in the area. Collaboration between civil societies in the Mediterranean region needs to be stressed since it accelerates the links between professional associations, the media, non-governmental organizations, universities and especially the citizens by transferring joint action and a better mutual understanding between the ones that have correspondent roles in their respected countries. 50

Furthermore, the advancement of peace and support missions in the region is another crucial feature of security, which needs to be elaborated on adding that the peace operations have been a reality to the Mediterranean for a long time. The regional participation rate stands at a low level even though the operations in the Mediterranean indicate great increases year by year in the light of presence of regional instability. 51

D. Role of the Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group

The Mediterranean and Middle East Special Group (GSM) is a forum for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the parliamentarians of NATO countries where the security and political problems and enhancement of co-operation is discussed. 52

In North Africa and the Middle East, the popular uprisings have brought revitalized engagement to the region as a result of lack of mutual understanding and a coherent need for closer co-operation. 53

The GSM was launched formally in 1996 in order to engage leaders from the region in constructive dialogue and cope with regional challenges. 54

49 Ibid.

51 Ibid.

53 Ibid.
54 Ibid.
The GSM conducts annual seminars, which cover diverse issues including:

- Security-related pertaining in the Middle East, the Mediterranean, and the Arabian Peninsula,
- Practical security co-operation,
- Improvements regarding the MD and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative,
- Dynamics of political change along with its social, economic and security aspects,
- The relations among Allied countries regarding religious and cultural forces,
- Common migration, energy security, environment and economic challenges. 

**VII. Conclusion**

The Mediterranean has a various character consisting of different identities of diverse countries. As a natural outcome, these identities cause different sub-regional security and defense problems. Ensuring the right combination of element in the right structures is the key factor of achieving a stable and secure environment in the region. Furthermore, it would lead to reaching goals such as partnership in the mean time. Considering the social differences, understanding the region should be the first step on the matter.

Secondly, the Mediterranean partnership should be based on principles covering peace and stability, common prosperities, human resources, respect to the different cultures, beliefs, and peoples of the region. Therefore, the security for the whole region can only be achieved by a high level of coordination.

Thirdly, NATO and Mediterranean Dialogue maybe used as an efficient instrument in improving a comprehensive cooperative in terms of a bilateral content.

Last but not least, the concerns governing an effective approach to the security in terms of diverse nature of the current security framework should focus on the security matters for both shores of the Mediterranean.

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55 Ibid.