

Forum: GA1 International Security and Disarmament

Issue: The question of Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean

Student Officer: Mr. Anthony Ozerov

Position: Chair of the GA1 Committee

Introduction

One of the main goals of the United Nations (UN) is to strengthen global security and cooperation. This is clear in Article 1 of the UN Charter, which states that one of the purposes of the UN is to “maintain international peace and security”. The Article further suggests that this should be done through collective measures which prevent and remove threats to peace. A further goal of the UN is to “achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character”.¹ The UN also included Goal 17, Partnership for the Goals, in the Sustainable Development Goals. It describes how “A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments...”². According to this Goal, States must be brought together to work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Mediterranean States should cooperate to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in their region.

To this end, the UN General Assembly (GA) has debated the question of Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean in every session since 1983. The GA has repeatedly declared that “the security of the Mediterranean is closely linked with international peace and security”, and has encouraged all States, even those not in the Mediterranean, to cooperate to promote security and cooperation the Mediterranean.³

To promote cooperation and security, organizations and commissions such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean have been created in order to allow for unified policies in

¹ "Chapter I." United Nations. Accessed November 29, 2017.
<http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html>.

² "Sustainable development goals." United Nations. Accessed November 29, 2017.
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

³ "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region." United Nations Official Document System. December 20, 1983. Accessed November 29, 2017.
<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/445/81/img/NR044581.pdf?OpenElement>.

certain areas. Data and technology sharing has also been augmented, especially when pertaining to fisheries and refugees.

Despite the progress, there still remains a significant economic, technological, and political divide between the nations on the Northern coast of the Mediterranean and those on the Southern and Eastern coasts. In order to secure the future economic and environmental success of the region, this gap would need to be bridged and a multilateral dialogue would need to be created.

Definition of Key Terms

The Mediterranean Sea

The Mediterranean Sea is a large saltwater body of water almost completely enclosed by the Maghreb in the South, the Levant in the East, and the southern coast of Europe in the North. It is connected to the Atlantic Ocean through the Strait of Gibraltar, where the UK, Spain, and Morocco have territory, to the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, which are controlled by Turkey, and to the Red Sea through the Suez Canal, which is controlled by Egypt.

Mediterranean Region

The Mediterranean Region refers to all nations which have a coast on the Mediterranean Sea. This includes all States in the Maghreb, many European States, and some Middle-Eastern States. The term could also be used to include nations which are essential to the economy of the Mediterranean, nations which rely on its resources, and nations which are a part of its ecosystem.

Security

Security is the freedom from danger and the freedom from fear. Security among nations refers to the safety, both economic and physical, of all of their citizens, and a constant state of peace. According to the UN, its central mission is to maintain international peace and security, and it does this through its "Preventative Diplomacy and Mediation", its Peacekeeping missions, its Peacebuilding, and its Counter-Terrorism and Disarmament efforts⁴.

⁴ "Maintain International Peace and Security." United Nations. Accessed November 25, 2017. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/maintain-international-peace-and-security/index.html>.

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

According to UNICEF, “multi-stakeholder partnerships take various forms, ranging from broad coalitions to formalized partnerships, and use innovative approaches to access goods and services, pool resources and knowledge, establish policy frameworks and coordinate actions to create transformational results”⁵

Background

The Mediterranean Region is extremely economically interconnected. This is because, for millennia, the Mediterranean Sea served as a medium for trade for all nations in the region. As the Sea has been important for the economies of all nations in the region, and essential to transportation⁶, the Sea was targeted in naval mining operations which aimed to disrupt trade, especially in the Second World War⁷. The economic connections are deepened by the fact that large parts of the Mediterranean Region have a similar climate, leading to similar agricultural products produced in coastal areas and a unified ecosystem.⁸

The fact that the Region has a unified ecosystem means that, according to reports by the UN Secretary General, many nations believe that more attention should be paid to protecting the environment.

In recent years, there has been a surge of refugees from Africa and the Middle East traveling towards Europe. This has been mainly due to the ongoing civil war in Syria. Because it is often easier than taking land routes, the Mediterranean has seen significant refugee traffic, peaking at 221,638 in October of 2015⁹. Many of these refugees sail to Italy, and many end up in France, the European nation now hosting the most refugees. However, it should not be forgotten that Mediterranean nations closer to the source of the refugees are more greatly impacted. Both Turkey and Lebanon each host more than four times as many refugees as France.¹⁰

There have been many territorial disputes in and around the Mediterranean. This includes the Aegean dispute between Greece and Turkey (~1970-present), the division of Cyprus (1974) and the

⁵ "Report on the implementation of the strategic framework for partnerships and collaborative relationships." UNICEF. July 13, 2012. Accessed November 29, 2017.

https://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/2012-18-Strategic_framework_for_partnerships-ODS-English.pdf.

⁶ Bower, Bruce. "Hominids Went Out of Africa on Rafts." *Wired*. June 04, 2017. Accessed November 28, 2017. <https://www.wired.com/2010/01/ancient-seafarers/>.

⁷ Smith, Gordon. *War at Sea: Royal Navy Actions in World War 2*. London: Ian Allan, 1989.

⁸ Akin, Wallace Elmus. *Global patterns: climate, vegetation, and soils*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991.

⁹ "Most common nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals from January 2017 ." Refugees Operational Portal. Accessed November 25, 2017. <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations>.

¹⁰ "Mid 2015 Stats" UNHCR. Accessed November 25, 2017. <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/mid2015stats.zip> (Tab1, second column).

dispute about the exclusive economic zones of the two resulting states (1974-present), and disputes between Israel and its neighbouring nations (1956-present) and between Israel and Gaza and the West Bank (1947-present). In many of these disputes, input into negotiations from other nations in the region was limited.

In the past century, there has been increasing cooperation on the European continent. This has come in the form of the European Union and other such developments. However, this cooperation has mostly not been expanded to include nations on the Southern coast of the Mediterranean and the Eastern Mediterranean. This is regrettable, as the success and security of nations in the region is heavily dependent on their cooperation and coordination of policy.

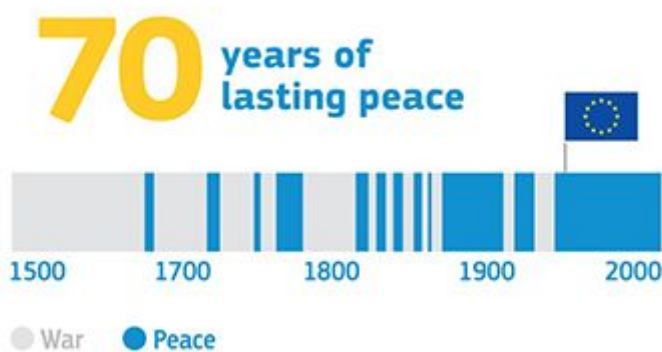
Key member states and NGOs

The European Union (EU)

The EU is an economic and political union in Europe comprised of 28 states. It has its own legislative body which has created a unified economic and environmental policy for all states within it. It does not include any nations on the southern coast of the Mediterranean, most nations on the Eastern Mediterranean, and some on the Adriatic Sea, although Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia are “in the process of 'transposing' EU legislation into national law”¹¹



A map of the European Union, with its Member States in green. Some overseas territories of these States are not illustrated.¹²



A chart depicting the Pax Europaea, the lasting peace which Europe has experienced following the end of the Second World War and the creation of the European Union^{13,14}

¹¹ "Countries." European Union. October 24, 2017. Accessed November 28, 2017.

https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries_en#28members.

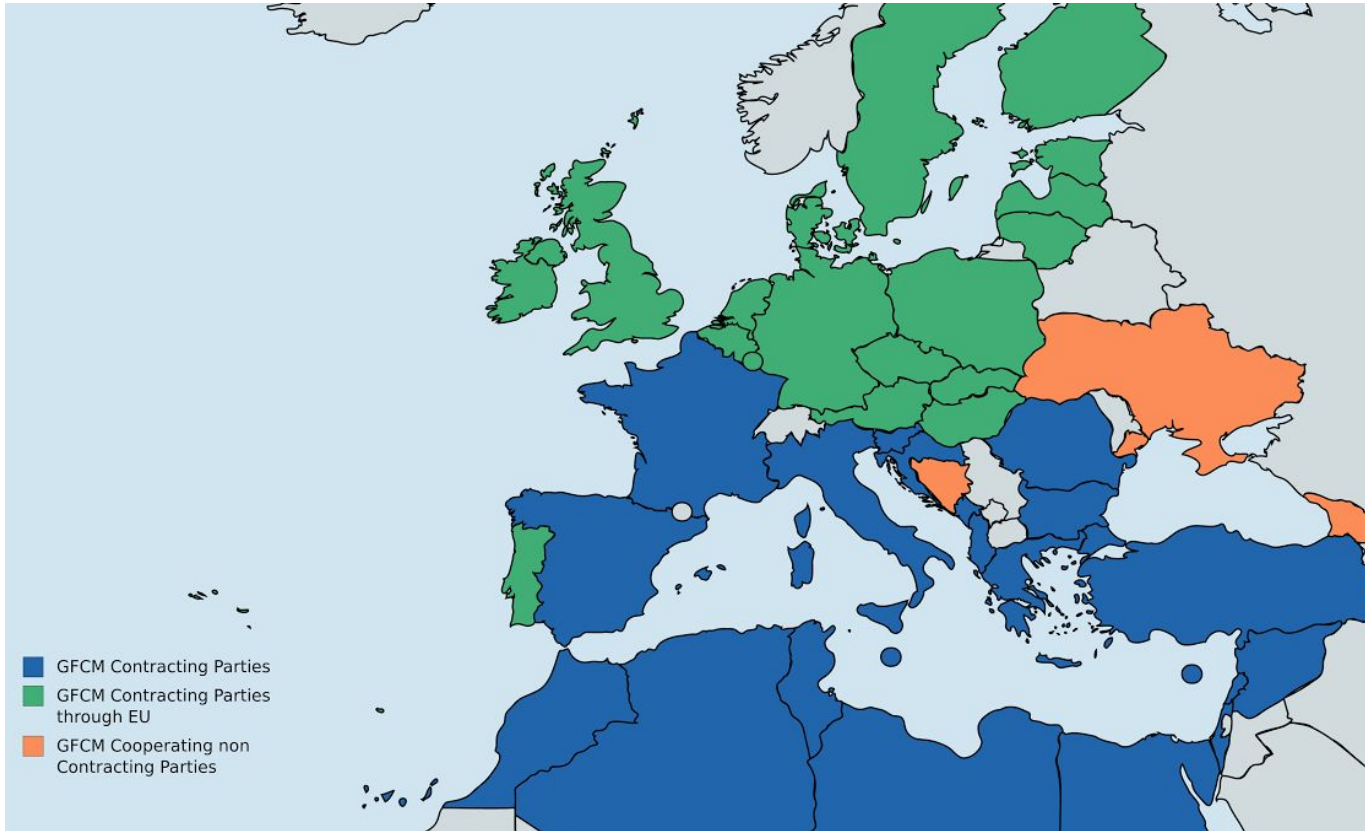
¹²https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/73/Global_European_Union.svg/600px-Global_European_Union.svg.png, Wikimedia Commons.

¹³ https://europa.eu/european-union/sites/europaefiles/pictures/70-years-peace_en_0.jpg, European Union

¹⁴ Tsoukalis, Loukas. *What kind of Europe?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

The GFCM is a commission of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Its main goal is to “ensure the conservation and the sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea”¹⁵ The GFCM coordinates the policies of its member nations regarding fisheries



Map depicting nations which are members of the GFCM

Libya

Most refugees crossing the Mediterranean into Europe depart in Libya. The ongoing civil war there has made it much easier for smugglers to transport people into the country and across the Mediterranean.¹⁶

¹⁵ "About GFCM." FAO. Accessed November 28, 2017. <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/background/about/en/>.

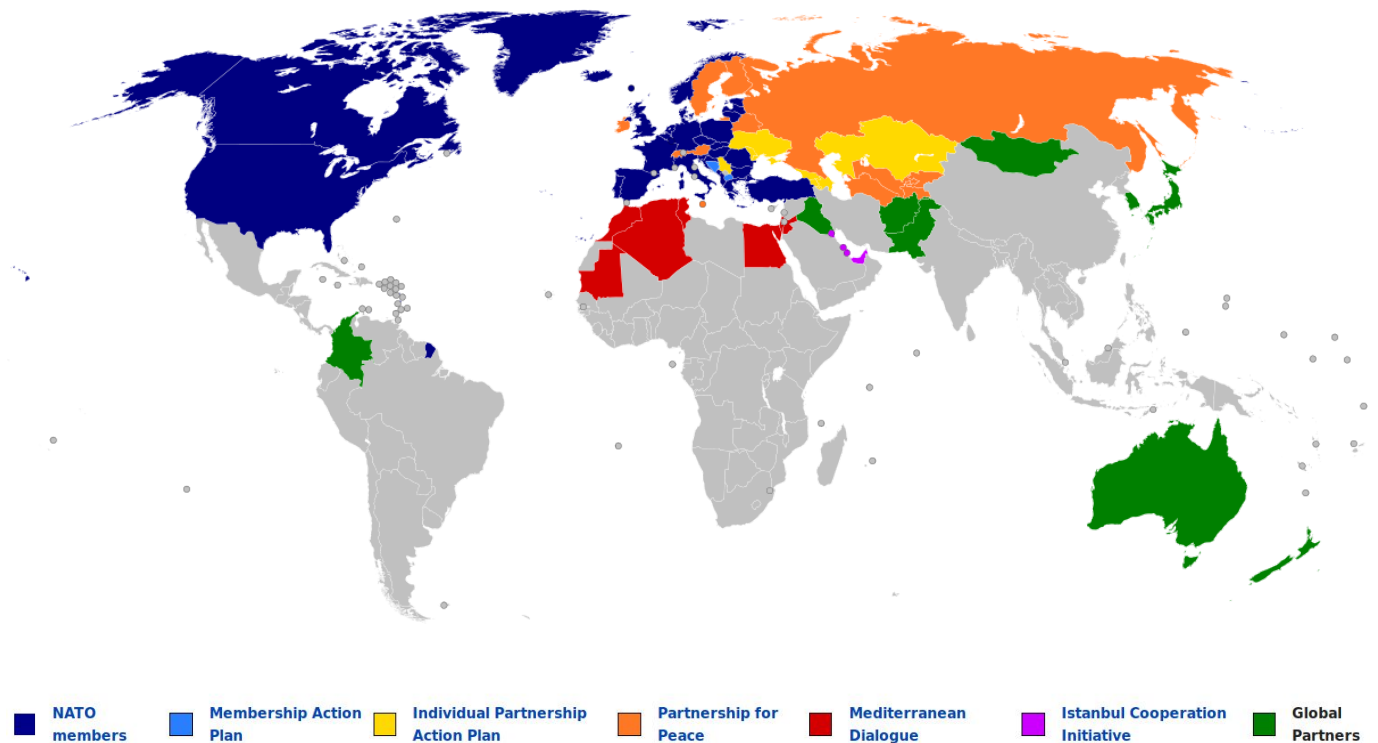
¹⁶ Almkhatar, Sarah. "What's Behind the Surge in Refugees Crossing the Mediterranean Sea." The New York Times. April 20, 2015. Accessed November 29, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/04/20/world/europe/surge-in-refugees-crossing-the-mediterranean-sea-maps.html>.

The World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization which regulates trade. Most Mediterranean nations are members of the WTO. Algeria, Libya, Lebanon, Syria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Monaco are Mediterranean nations which are not members of the WTO, Monaco being the only one which is not a WTO observer. The WTO aims to make sure trade flows among nations efficiently, predictably, and freely.¹⁷

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO is a military alliance among some North American and European states. It applies the policy of collective defence to attacks by non-NATO parties. Many NATO countries are on the Mediterranean, but there also exists the Mediterranean Dialogue, which is a forum for several North African and Middle Eastern countries. The goal of the Mediterranean Dialogue is to “create good relations and better mutual understanding and confidence throughout the region, promoting regional security and stability and explaining NATO's policies and goals.”¹⁸



A map depicting NATO and its partnerships.¹⁹

¹⁷ "WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION." WTO | About the organization. Accessed November 28, 2017. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

¹⁸ "NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue." NATO. Accessed November 28, 2017. <https://web.archive.org/web/20090911100522/http://www.nato.int/issues/med-dial/index.html>

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:NATO_partnerships.svg, Wikimedia Commons.

Timeline of Events

| Date | Description of event |
|-------------------|--|
| 18 April, 1951 | Treaty of Paris signed, establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, a centralized organization which regulated its members' production of coal and steel. ²⁰ |
| 25 March, 1957 | Treaty of Rome signed, establishing the European Economic Community, a Community which aimed to unify policies and create a single market among its Parties. ²¹ |
| 16 February, 1976 | Barcelona Convention comes into force, creating cooperation among Mediterranean nations aiming to protect the Sea's environment. ²² |
| 1 November, 1993 | Maastricht Treaty comes into force, creating a common foreign and security policy and promoted cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs among the members of the European Community ²³ |
| 1994 | Mediterranean Dialogue created, creating discussion between NATO and nations in North Africa relating to issues of security. ²⁴ |

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The UN GA has discussed the question of Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region every session since session 38.

- Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, 16 December 1970 (**A/RES/25/2734**)
- Barcelona convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, 16 February 1976
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 20 December 1983 (**A/RES/38/189**)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 18 January 1984 (**A/RES/38/189**)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 28 January 1985 (**A/RES/39/153**)

²⁰ "The history of the European Union - European Union." European Union. October 24, 2017. Accessed November 29, 2017. https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history_en.

²¹ Ibid.

²² "Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean." EUR-Lex. Accessed November 30, 2017. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A28084>.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ "NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue." NATO. Accessed November 28, 2017.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20090911100522/http://www.nato.int/issues/med-dial/index.html>

- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 21 January 1986
(A/RES/40/157)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 22 January 1987
(A/RES/41/89)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 17 December 1987
(A/RES/42/90)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 26 January 1989
(A/RES/43/84)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 26 January 1990
(A/RES/44/125)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 14 January 1991
(A/RES/45/79)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 6 December 1991
(A/RES/46/42)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 9 December 1992
(A/RES/47/58)
- Maastricht Treaty, 1 November 1993
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 16 December 1993
(A/RES/48/81)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 15 December 1994
(A/RES/49/81)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 10 January 1996
(A/RES/50/75)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 08 January 1997
(A/RES/51/566)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 31 December 1997
(A/RES/52/43)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 08 January 1999
(A/RES/53/82)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 20 November 2000
(A/RES/54/59)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 20 November 2000
(A/RES/55/38)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 9 January 2002
(A/RES/56/29)

- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 9 January 2003
(A/RES/57/99)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 7 January 2004
(A/RES/58/70)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 2 September 2004
(A/RES/59/108)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 12 September 2005
(A/RES/60/94)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 11 September 2006
(A/RES/61/101)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 18 August 2007
(A/RES/62/58)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 23 August 2008
(A/RES/63/86)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 30 December 2011
(A/RES/64/68)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 14 January 2011
(A/RES/65/90)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 22 June 2011
(A/RES/66/63)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 13 December 2012
(A/RES/67/75)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 12 December 2013
(A/RES/68/67)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 15 December 2014
(A/RES/69/80)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 7 December 2015
(A/RES/70/72)
- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, 08 December 2016
(A/RES/71/85)

Possible Solutions

Although it is possible, it could be difficult to implement sufficient measures to address all specific instances of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. As such, it would be better to create a lasting framework to allow for Mediterranean nations to cooperate independently from the resolutions passed on this Question.

One way to promote cooperation in the Mediterranean is to encourage the use of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Such multi-stakeholder partnerships could include technology-sharing agreements, preventing the inefficient parallel development of technology. They could also include cooperative infrastructure development projects, cooperative provision of services such as maritime patrols, and the coordination of policies, especially relating to the environment and migration. These multi-stakeholder partnerships would open dialogue between nations and create a decentralized system of cooperation in the Mediterranean.

Instead of having many independent partnerships, it is also possible to create a centralized council which represents all Mediterranean nations. Such a council could pass resolutions which focus on Mediterranean issues and apply only to Mediterranean nations, and could be a UN committee or an independent body. Any solution to this issue which includes the creation of such a UN committee or independent body would require significant detail, including but not limited to: where it convenes, when it convenes, what nations participate in it, what its powers are, how it is structured, and how it is funded.

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