Committee: Political Committee

Issue: Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

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Introduction

The Mediterranean region is facing a range of complex challenges due to the instability, especially in the Middle East and Northern Africa. Numerous challenges affect sustainable development goals as insecurity and instability affect the attainment of the SDGs. There are several areas where Mediterranean countries can cooperate to ensure development including addressing the growth of radicalization, terrorism, conflict in the region and its consequences on neighboring countries including the refugee crisis, in addition to cooperation in the field of climate change, energy, economy, infrastructure development, human rights and governance. Thus the key areas of cooperation center around the challenges which impede development in the region as the consequences do not only affect the Mediterranean region but other regions as the world is interconnected.

Definition of Key-Terms

Mediterranean countries are:
Gibraltar, Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Palestine.

UFM: (Union for the Mediterranean) it was established on 13 July 2008 at the Paris summit of the Mediterranean. Its role is to complement a structure for economic, social and cultural relations between the Mediterranean countries and the European Union, as to intensify stability, security, peace and other democratic issues, as well as ensuring human rights.

Conflict zones: are war zones that occur wherever parties are waging a war against each other.
Background Information

The Mediterranean region has been affected by instability in many countries in the region causing serious economic, social and political outcomes including unemployment, casualties, deaths and refugees. The Syrian crisis is a major humanitarian one which started as demonstrations, but then proceeded as a violent conflict and civil war. Millions of Syrians have become refugees, or internally displaced or even missed. The ongoing conflict between Assad government and the opposition made it possible for terror groups such as ISIS to find the best soil to grow. Therefore, cooperation to tackle the consequences of this war is major aspect that should be addressed as the outcomes affect neighboring countries as well. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is another conflict which has impact on the Mediterranean region hence advancing peace process is a necessity. Furthermore, Egypt is facing instability due to terror attacks and economic problems. Other Challenges include numerous other issues related to human rights, violent extremism, radicalization, socioeconomic problems, education, energy, climate change, water and sustainable development in general.

A major initiative to ensure cooperation among the Mediterranean countries is the Union for the Mediterranean. The Union for the Mediterranean (UFM), which is an intergovernmental organization, includes 28 EU countries and 15 Mediterranean Member States to ensure cooperation in six priority areas, namely: “business development, social and civil affairs, higher education and research, transport and urban development, water and environment, and energy and climate action.” The Secretariat of the Union dedicated more than €5 billion to enhance all key areas in the region. In addition UFM participated in the OSCE conference regarding security in the Mediterranean region.

Major Organizations involved

- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)
  It was established in 2005 in Malta; it aims at creating the best political, economic, social and environmental conditions by promoting peace and confidence among Member States in the region.

- Union for the Mediterranean (UFM)
  The UFM is an intergovernmental organization that includes 43 Member States, which aims at cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

- Organization for security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
  The OSCE has enacted schemes that aim at enhancing security. Moreover, it has been concentrating on several issues to foster peace, security and cooperation among countries, especially in the Mediterranean region and Europe. Some of these issues are: combating
human trafficking and terrorism, fair and free elections, money laundering, gender equality, corruption and environmental security.

- The European Union (EU)
The EU is actively involved in issues related to the Mediterranean by widening regional cooperation so as to develop economic and democracy issues.

**Relevant UN treaties and resolutions and events**

- November 2005- the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit
- In 2008- the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, which launched the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean”,
- December 2014 -Resolution 69/80 which affirms the role of “the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”
- December 2014- Assembly resolution 69/80
- The report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (A/70/160 and Add.1).
- In 2015- A/70/465 “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”

**Possible Solutions**

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean is a crucial issue that should be tackled. Several areas of cooperation should be strengthened in the region including solutions to ongoing conflicts, supporting peace negotiations in the Middle East, addressing the refugee crisis, stressing confidence building measures, promoting regional dialogue on energy and water resources, countering terrorist threats and enhancing human rights and democratic governance in addition to other areas which would accelerate achieving sustainable development and the SDGs.
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Useful Links

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