Regional and internal Security challenges and Their Implications on the Algerian National Security

التهديدات الأمنية الإقليمية والداخلية وتداعياتها على الأمن القومي الجزائري.

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الملخص:

يمثل الأمن ركيزة أساسية في منظومة بناء الدول وتطور المجتمعات، إذ يشكل الأساس الجوهري الذي تنبثق منه كافة مقومات التنمية والاستقرار. وفي هذا السياق، تبرز الجزائر كنموذج للدولة الساعية إلى تحقيق الأمن بمفهومه الشامل ومستوياته المتعددة، وذلك نظراً لموقعها الجيوستراتيجي في منطقة تتسم بديناميكية التحولات الأمنية وتعدد مصادر التهديد. إن هذا الواقع الجيوسياسي المعقد يستدعي تبني مقاربة شمولية تتجاوز الجهود الفردية للدولة، وتؤسس لمنظور تكاملي يقوم على التخطيط الاستراتيجي الجماعي والتعاون الإقليمي المنظم، وذلك لمواجهة التحديات الأمنية المعاصرة التي تتجاوز في طبيعتها وتأثيراتها القدرات المنفردة للدول.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الأمن القومي، التهديدات الإقليمية، الجزائر، إفريقيا، المغرب العربي، التعاون.

Abstract:

Security represents a fundamental pillar in the system of building states and developing societies, serving as the essential foundation from which all elements of development and stability emerge. In this context, Algeria stands out as a model of a state striving to achieve comprehensive security across its multiple levels, owing to its geostrategic position in a region characterized by dynamic security transformations and diverse sources of threat. This complex geopolitical reality necessitates adopting a comprehensive approach that transcends the individual efforts of the state, establishing an integrative perspective based on collective strategic planning and organized regional cooperation. This is essential to confront contemporary security challenges that, by their nature and impact, exceed the unilateral capacities of states.

Key words: National security, Regional and internal threats, Algeria, Africa, Arab Maghreb, cooperation

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Introduction:

National security is one of the most critical pillars of state stability and survival. It represents a multidimensional framework that encompasses sovereignty, development, internal stability, and external engagement. In this context, Algeria emerges as a key regional actor in North Africa and the Sahel, confronting escalating security challenges that stem from a turbulent regional environment as well as complex domestic pressures—economic, social, and demographic in nature.

On the regional front, Algeria's geographic proximity to chronic conflict zones such as Libya and Mali, in addition to its long and porous borders, exposes it to transnational threats including terrorism, irregular migration, and organized crime. Internally, the country faces equally pressing challenges such as high unemployment, developmental disparities, environmental stress, and mounting social tensions that risk evolving into latent security crises.

Understanding the nature of these compound threats requires the adoption of a comprehensive security approach—one that integrates both internal and external dimensions while enhancing preventive, deterrent, and cooperative mechanisms at regional and international levels.

Problem Statement:

To what extent do regional and internal security threats impact algeria's national security?

Hypotheses:

- Regional and internal security threats are interconnected span multiple dimensions and levels.
- Overcoming these threats requires strategic consensus, regional cooperation, and transnational partnerships.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To analyze the complex and multifaceted nature of security by highlighting its levels and linking them to emerging security threats.
2. To identify Algeria's strategic importance and determine the sources of threats at various levels.
3. To propose alternatives and recommendations for activating joint efforts to overcome risks and security threats.
4. To emphasize the role of external coordination, highlighting the impact on Algeria's national interests.

Structure of the Study:

1. Conceptual framework of the study.
2. Algeria's position between strategic importance and regional and internal security threats.
3. The Algeria's response to regional and internal security threats

1. The conceptual Framework of the Study

The concept of security is one of the most complex concepts in the field of international relations. Due to its intersection with various political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions. Traditionally it was confined to the military domain and the protection of state borders from external aggression, the concept has gradually expanded to include human security, food security, environmental security, and others. Contemporary

threats now transcend the traditional framework, affecting the societal and political stability of the state.

1.1 Concept of security:

Robert McNamara offers a comprehensive and developmental definition of security, stating that "security is not merely about armament or military power; it is about development. Without development, there can be no genuine security." This view establishes a strong link between national security and socio-economic advancement. [1]

Barry Buzan, one of the most influential theorists in security studies, emphasizes that security is a multi-dimensional and contested concept, involving political, economic, and societal dimensions. He argues that security must be analyzed across various levels, from individual to state to international systems.

Arnold Wolfers defines security as "the absence of threats to acquired values and the absence of fear that such values will be attacked." His perspective introduces the subjective dimension of security, focusing on both actual threats and perceived vulnerabilities.

Michael Klare, alongside **Daniel Thomas**, expands the notion of security beyond state-centric frameworks. They argue that issues such as environmental degradation, public health crises, and resource scarcity should be treated as core security concerns, as they directly impact human well-being and societal stability. [2]

1.2 Levels of security: Security can be categorized into three main levels:

1- **National security**: Concerned with protecting the internal structure of the state from any threat to its sovereignty, territorial integrity, or the interests of its people. Researcher Amin Howeidi defines it as "the measures taken by the state to preserve its existence and interests in the present and future, considering regional changes".

Algeria's focus on the concept of national security stems from a comprehensive perspective that accounts for the complex interactions between internal and external dimensions. Given Algeria's geostrategic location and its pivotal role in a turbulent region, it is susceptible to direct and indirect impacts from regional threats. Therefore, the Algerian concept of national security transcends traditional military protection to encompass its political stability, economic prosperity, social cohesion, and the preservation of its cultural identity, in the face of diverse challenges that may arise from its regional environment.

2- **Regional security**: Involves coordination among a group of states within a shared geographic region to confront challenges that threaten collective stability.

3-**International security**: Based on the principle of collective security, underpinned by the belief that an attack on one state is a threat to global security, necessitating a collective response under international law and institutions.[3]

1.3- Concept of security threats:

According to theorist Barry Buzan security threats can be categorized into five main sectors:

- Military sector: encompasses any threat that may undermine a state's defensive capabilities, such as armed aggression, arms races, or organized terrorist infiltrations. [4]
- Political sector: involves threats targeting the political system of the state through institutional disruption, external interference in sovereignty, or internal legitimacy erosion.
- Economic sector: relates to securing vital economic resources, ensuring sustainable growth, and shielding the state from external economic pressures or dependency.

- Social sector: concerns threats to cultural identity, social cohesion, and the infiltration of alien ideologies that destabilize the societal fabric.
- Environmental sector: includes risks from climate change, natural disasters, and pollution, all of which affect public health and natural resources.

Moreover, according to the Russian-European Studies center at the university of Helsinki threats are also categorized under the concept of "Soft Security", which refers to non-military threats affecting individuals, states, and societies. These include:

1- Individual Risks: such as crime and pandemics.
2- Community Risks: like the widespread impact of health and environmental crises.
3- Cross Border threats: including illegal migration and human trafficking.
4- Creeping Crises: local crises that gradually evolve into regional or international issues.
5- Potential Catastrophes: such as major earthquakes, widespread pollution, or desertification.

These classifications demonstrate that the security threats confronting Algeria are not limited to a direct military dimension but extend to complex challenges targeting other dimensions of national security. In Algeria's context, economic threats stemming from oil price fluctuations, or environmental threats related to desertification and water scarcity, can have profound impacts on social and political stability, just as much as the gravity of military and terrorist threats. This necessitates a comprehensive approach that transcends a narrow view of security.

2 - Algeria's strategic position and regional security threats.

Algeria is situated in an important geostrategic region on the Mediterranean coast, making it a critical link between Africa and Europe. It possesses enormous, natural resources, particularly oil and natural gas, which have granted it a significant geopolitical position in the region. Nevertheless, like other nations, Algeria faces various social, political, and even environmental challenges.

This section will explore these dynamics.

2.1- The geopolitical importance of Algeria:

Algeria is an important strategic junction between three continents: Africa, Europe, and Asia. With an area of 2.381.741 km^2, Algeria is the largest country in Africa, Arab world, and the Mediterranean basin. It boasts a 1200 km of coastline and a diverse geography, including a coastal strip and a vast desert rich in hydrocarbons.

Algeria is a major exporter of these resources (accounting for 98% of its exports) to the European Union, the Maghreb region, and the United States. While its oil production is modest compared to Middle Eastern countries, its oil and gas remain vital to geopolitical and economic relations in the Mediterranean. Algeria also holds significant demographic weight in North Africa, with a population of approximately 46 million people in 2024, according to the national bureau of statistics.[5]

These geographic and demographic factors have significantly influenced the evolution of Algeria's security doctrine. Before the end of Cold War. Algeria's doctrine focused on supporting liberation movements worldwide and asserting itself as a regional power. However, post-Cold War shifts such as rising internal security challenges and increased interdependence prompted Algeria to shift its focus to internal issues, including counter-

terrorism, drug trafficking, and state security. This shift marks a transition from externally driven priorities to an emphasis on internal determinants that have clearly shaped the country's current security outlook.[6]

2.2- Nature of regional and internal threats facing Algeria

With the end of the Cold War, new and more complex threats emerged, making traditional security approaches insufficient. Security now encompasses political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions. Globalization has facilitated the spread of these threats across all regions of the world, and the Maghreb is among the regions most affected. Among these threats are the following

a. Political dimension:

- **Terrorism threat**: Terrorism in the Maghreb has evolved into a dynamic and fluid threat, deeply embedded within the shifting security architecture of North Africa and the Sahel. In the Algerian context, this threat is not an isolated crisis but a systemic outcome of regional volatility, weak border governance, and the proliferation of armed non-state actors. Following the collapse of centralized authority in Libya and the enduring instability in Mali, transnational terrorist groups have capitalized on vast ungoverned spaces to establish operational sanctuaries and logistical corridors. [7]

These groups — notably Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), ISIS-affiliated factions in Libya, MUJAO, and Ansar al-Sharia — have restructured themselves into decentralized networks. Unlike earlier insurgencies, their focus is not limited to direct military confrontation. Instead, they engage in ideological warfare, leverage cyber technologies for propaganda and recruitment, and exploit ethnic, tribal, and economic fault lines to build local support or passive acceptance, particularly in marginalized or border communities.[8]

Algeria's geostrategic position — bordering six countries, many of which are in varying states of instability — increases its vulnerability to these infiltrative networks. The groups often rely on asymmetrical tactics: cross-border smuggling, ransom financing, and targeted assassinations, all aimed at destabilizing the internal security order and projecting power beyond their territorial reach. [9]

Moreover, these organizations do not merely seek to disrupt physical security. Their actions target the symbolic foundations of state legitimacy: the credibility of national institutions, the cohesion of the population, and the monopoly of the state over the use of force. Terrorist attacks are thus designed to produce psychological shock, erode public trust in the government, and challenge the state's ability to guarantee safety — a core component of the social contract.

The continuity of terrorism in Algeria's regional environment is also sustained by broader transnational dynamics: weapons proliferation from failed states, ideological linkages with global jihadist movements, and the weakening of regional security alliances. As a result, terrorism in this context functions as both a symptom and a driver of regional fragmentation.[10]

- **Tensions with Mali:** Algeria's relationship with Mali has recently grown more tense due to political and security incidents. In April 2025, Algeria shot down a Malian drone near the border town of Tinzaouatine, prompting Mali to accuse Algeria of interfering in its internal affairs. This led to diplomatic tensions and ambassador recalls. The dispute

escalated after Mali withdrew in January 2024 from the 2015 Algiers Peace Accord, accusing Algeria of partiality and supporting Tuareg movements in northern Mali, and of harboring terrorism. Algeria denied these accusations, viewing them as attempts to shift blame for Mali's internal crises.[11]

This deterioration threatens stability in the Sahel, especially with the rise of Russian influence in Mali via the Wagner group and a declining Algerian role as a regional mediator. Continued tensions may undermine anti-terrorism efforts and further complicate regional security.

b. The social dimension of security threats

1. **Irregular migration threat**: due to its vast land borders and geographical location, Algeria has become a key transit point for migrants from neighboring countries. Along its northeastern and western borders, irregular migration primarily involves Tunisian and Moroccan nationals. However, the southern regions, particularly the provinces of Tamanrasset, Illizi, and Adrar serve as entry points for clandestine migrants from countries such as Mali, Niger, Ghana, Mauritania, and Nigeria. These migrants view Algeria as a transit corridor toward the Northern provinces and ultimately Europe in search for better living conditions.

The expansive and poorly monitored borders facilitate infiltration[12]; making land routes, the most commonly used paths. The rising tide of irregular migration across Algeria's southern borders is not merely a demographic phenomenon; it reflects deeper structural failures in regional governance and socioeconomic development. The growing instability in the Sahel has transformed Algeria from a passive corridor into an active buffer zone, forcing it to adopt both humanitarian and security roles. This duality creates a complex policy dilemma: how to uphold international human rights obligations while preserving national security and social cohesion. Thus, the issue requires not only logistical responses but also a broader strategic vision anchored in regional cooperation and internal socio-economic reforms. [13]

2. **The Organized Crime:** Organized crime led by smuggling networks, poses a growing threat to Maghreb countries. These organizations operate with complex structures and maintain ties with external actors. Their operations often start in Morocco, passing through Algeria and Tunisia as a key transit zones, and end in European destinations.

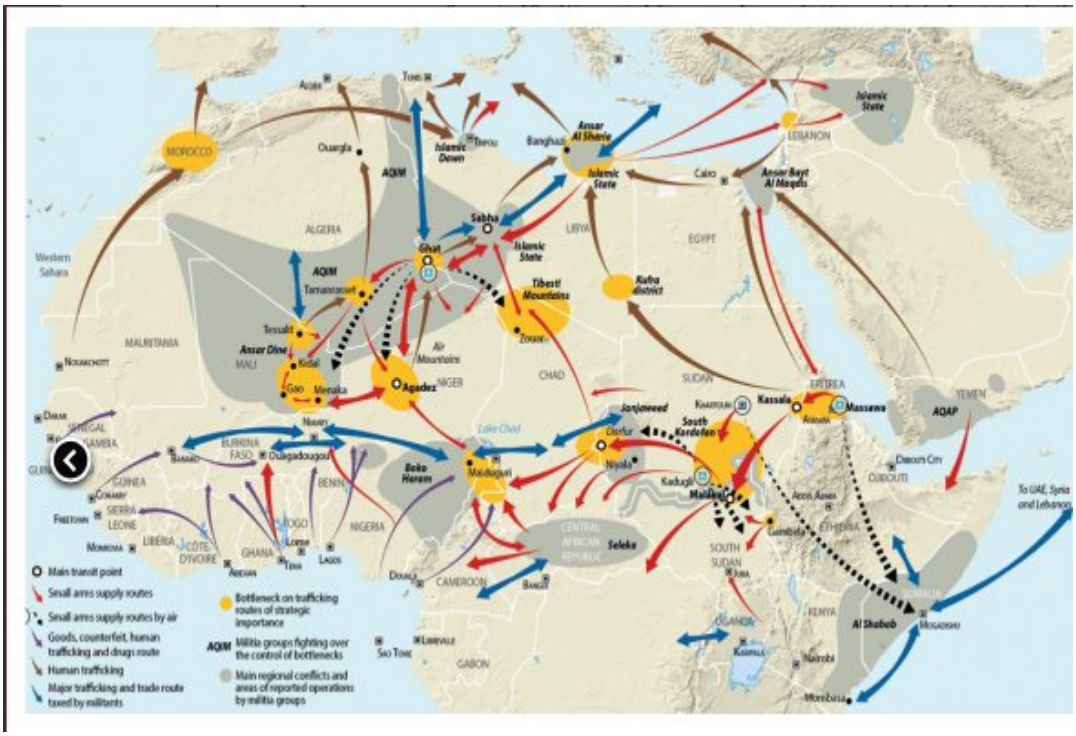
Recent reports indicate the massive scale of these illicit activities. According to the 2024 World Drug report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Africa has increasingly become a major hub for drug transit. Cocaine from Latin America and Heroin and Methamphetamines from Southwest Asia are routed through Africa on route to Europe and other destinations.

Transnational organized crime represents a serious threat to Algerian national security, given its geographical location, which makes it a transit route for drug, arms, and human trafficking. Regarding drug trafficking, reports indicate that Algeria has become a major transit point, especially for cannabis originating from Morocco. according to the 2024 World Drug Report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2024), the volume of cannabis seizures in Algeria and neighboring countries indicates a significant flow,

reflecting both the magnitude of the threat and the effectiveness of Algerian security efforts in interdiction. [14]

The impact of these illicit activities is not limited to the economic dimension, represented by the vast illicit funds generated by criminal networks. It also extends to the social dimension through the spread of addiction, the security dimension through financing terrorism and fostering corruption, and the political dimension by potentially undermining state sovereignty in border areas. As for arms trafficking, fueled by regional instability, it further empowers terrorist and criminal groups, exacerbating tensions in border regions.

Figure 01: The map shows the main areas of security threats and terrorist groups, as well as smuggling and illicit trafficking routes in North Africa, the Sahel, the Sahara and parts of the Middle East



Source: kyrre tromm lindving, sahel –aregion beyard saving?, stratagem, 22/12/2021, at: https://www.stratagem.no/sahel-a-region-beyong-saving/

3. Demographic, Economic, and Environmental Challenges in Algeria and the Maghreb Region:

- **Demographic pressure:** Demographic pressure presents a central challenge for Algeria and the broader Maghreb region. The growing gap between available economic and social resources and the rising population leads to internal social imbalances. Irregular migration and high unemployment rates are among the most prominent manifestations of this imbalance. Rapid population growth demands extensive infrastructure and services to meet the increasing needs of citizens.
- **Economic Challenges:** on the economic front, some countries in the region rely heavily on a narrow range of exports. Algeria and Libya, for example, are heavily dependent on oil, while tourism forms the backbone of the economies in Tunisia and Morocco. This

one-dimensional economic dependence weakens structural resilience and exposes these countries to fluctuations in global markets.

Global financial crises have had a significant impact on most Maghreb countries, with partial exceptions for those less integrated into the global economy. These shocks further limit public investment, weaken state-led development, and exacerbate vulnerabilities.

- **Social Challenges: Poverty and Unemployment:** In Algeria, unemployment and poverty are not merely socioeconomic indicators; they constitute structural vulnerabilities that threaten national stability. With a national unemployment rate estimated at 11.7% at the end of 2023 (Trading Economics, 2024), and youth unemployment reaching over 26%, the country faces a persistent inability to integrate large segments of its educated population into the labor market. These economic tensions are exacerbated in peripheral and border regions, where public investment remains limited and social mobility constrained[15]

- **Environmental Challenges:** Environmental threats represent an increasingly critical security dimension in the region. The Arab world suffers from low precipitation and snowfall, making water scarcity not merely a quantitative issue but one with political, economic, and legal dimensions. About 90% of the Arab world's territory lies within arid zones. The region accounts for just 0.8% of global freshwater resources, despite being home to 288 million people who inhabit one tenth of the planet's land surface. [16]

Water shortages lead to drought and poverty and can contribute to the emergence of international conflicts. Pollution is another pressing concern, as it disrupts the balance of natural ecosystems. The Mediterranean Sea, in particular, suffers from severe pollution due to industrial wastewater, posing significant environmental and public health risks.

The Maghreb countries face acute water scarcity, prompting efforts to control shared water sources, such as transboundary river systems, like those between Algeria and Tunisia. Water issues are not limited to quantity but extend to quality, with pollution emerging as a major threat to surface and groundwater resources. This is largely due to weak environmental protection policies against industrial waste and agricultural runoff.[17]

2.3- The Impact of Security Threats on Algeria:

Due to its geostrategic location and regional environment, Algeria faces a range of direct security threats that cast a shadow over its national stability. Addressing these threats requires constant vigilance and integrated strategic responses. The most prominent threats include:

- **The potential influx of refugees and irregular migrants:** irregular migration and refugee flows place a substantial burden on Algeria. In 2013, estimates suggested around 2500 irregular migrant's .in 2024, The Algerian Red Crescent reported between 5000 and 6000 irregular migrants from Sahel countries, mostly from Mali and Niger, currently reside in Algeria. These numbers are fluid, changing weekly or even daily due to continuous movements across borders.[18]

  Any relaxation of border controls or humanitarian responses to regional crises could trigger mass inflows potentially reaching hundreds of thousands. Such large-scale migration would create severe economic and social strain, threatening Algeria's internal stability and its capacity to absorb newcomers.

In response, Algeria has recently taken strict measures, including large-scale deportations. Reports from April and May 2025 indicate that Algerian authorities deported over 5000 migrants to Niger, primarily Nigerian nationals, as part of efforts to control irregular migration[19]

- **Risks of border infiltration by terrorist organizations:** Algeria extensive southern borders, especially the 1400 km shared with Mali, represent security vulnerability. Terrorist groups seeking to expand and finance their operations can exploit these vast desert areas. The country has already experienced such infiltration attempts, including attacks like the In Amenas (Tiguentourine) gas plant hostage crisis; which underscores the real and present nature of the threat.[20]
- **Presence of foreign military forces and intelligence agencies in the region:** the growing presence of foreign intelligence agencies and western military bases in the Sahel and surrounding regions raises Algeria's concerns. Such foreign establishments may negatively affect Algeria's border security and regional influence. They could serve as intelligence gathering platforms or even support actors whose interest's conflict with Algeria. For instance, reports of French military bases in the region have become a source of diplomatic friction and are seen as a challenge to Algerian sovereignty. [21]
- **Strain on military and economic resources:** managing the mounting security threats along Algeria's 6000 km southern border demands constant military alertness and operational readiness. This state of high alert results in a sharp rise in defense spending. In 2025, Algeria increased its defense budget to 25.1 billion dollars, placing a substantial burden on public finances and potentially diverting funds from economic and social development priorities. These factors demonstrate that Algeria operates within a complex regional security environment that necessitates robust defense strategies, effective regional cooperation, and comprehensive national development policies to strengthen internal resilience.

2.4- **Political Stability and Protest Risks Linked to Socio-economic and Migratory Pressures:**

Political stability in Algeria is increasingly challenged by socio-economic pressures that manifest in periodic protest movements. While the country has maintained relative institutional continuity, high youth unemployment, regional disparities, and perceptions of political exclusion have generated cycles of unrest, particularly in urban peripheries and marginalized border zones.

Irregular migration further amplifies this volatility, as local populations in high-transit areas often compete with migrants for scarce resources and public services. This perceived competition can inflame social tensions and erode intercommunal trust. [22]

Such conditions contribute to the emergence of low-intensity, decentralized protest dynamics that may not directly threaten regime continuity but gradually weaken the social fabric and state legitimacy. The symbolic loss of authority in specific regions, combined with declining public trust, transforms social grievances into latent security threats. In this context, the boundary between social unrest and political instability becomes increasingly porous, especially in the absence of effective channels for political expression and institutional redress.

3. The Algeria's response to regional and internal security threats:

In response to escalating regional and internal security threats, Algeria has implemented a range of security policies both domestically and internationally. This section outlines the most notable measures.

3.1 Domestic measures:

In recent years, Algeria has adopted a comprehensive security approach, moving beyond the traditional focus on military defense toward a multidimensional strategy integrating security, political, economic, and social dimensions. Key elements include:

- **Modernization and professionalization of the military:** the Algerian army has pursued modernization and enhanced cooperation with Western militaries. Algeria has engaged in the Euro Mediterranean partnership and initiated dialogues with NATO, aiming to improve operational capabilities, particularly in counterterrorism.
- **Increase defense budget:** Algeria raised its defense budget to 25.1 billion dollars for the year 2025, up from 21 billion dollars in 2024, reflecting its commitment to strengthening national defense capabilities in light of regional threats.[23]
- **Enhanced border control:** Algeria has intensified border surveillance through specialized units tasked with combating irregular migration. Coordination has been bolstered among border guards, customs, and police forces to detect infiltration and smuggling routes, including monitoring airports, ports, and land crossings. Security checkpoints have been expanded.
- **Legislative measures against irregular migration:** Algeria enacted strict legal frameworks to combat irregular migration. Notably, Law N° 09-01, particularly Article 175, criminalizes unauthorized departure from national territory. The law falls under offenses against regulations related to border control. [24]

3.2 The international measures:

Algeria has actively pursued a diplomatic strategy grounded in the principles of national interests, international law, and the promotion of peace. Within the Arab regional context, it undertook initiatives aimed at fostering a unified Arab stance toward threat of terrorism. These efforts culminated in the adoption of the Arab convention on combating terrorism, which officially entered into force in May 1999.

At the African level, it is hosting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit in July 1999 marked Algeria's diplomatic engagement. This event served a dual purpose: reaffirming Algeria's historical leadership role on the continent and revitalizing its diplomatic presence while reshaping its international image. Moreover, Algeria played a pioneering role in advocating for the establishment of a continental legal framework to counter terrorism. It reintroduced a draft convention on combating terrorism, which garnered widespread support and was subsequently adopted during the African Summit held in Algiers on July 14, 1999.

The attacks of 11 September 2011 reinforced the credibility of Algeria's long standing warnings about terrorism. This global shift in perspective led to wider regional and international recognition of Algeria's counterterrorism experience. [25]

In accordance with this experience, Algeria became aware of the importance of development in achieving security, also that poverty and ignorance are among the main causes of terrorism, it has called for the promotion of development in African countries, particularly in the coast region. It has also endeavored within the framework of its diplomacy to persuade the international community to suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to criminalize the payment of ransom. Its efforts culminated by the Security Council ratification of regulation N° 1904 concerning the criminalization of the payment of ransom in December 2009.

Algeria has also worked on a series of cooperative procedures to fight the phenomenon of illegal migration, the most notably are:

1- Cooperation within the framework of the Barcelona process :

One of the most important points in the introductory paragraph of Barcelona process is the organization of migration movements, which have become a security threat to Europe. Algeria has signed the Partnership Agreement under the Barcelona project in April 2002. This agreement has included strengthening the cooperation in various fields. The issue of illegal migration has also been addressed in its political and social dimensions. The European Union and Algeria have agreed to cooperate in order to combat its threats. Besides the cooperation in Barcelona process, Algeria has entered in discussion of 5+5 group to eliminate the phenomenon of illegal migration and reduce its effects.

In 2023, a partnership was established with the United States of America in the field of counterterrorism, focusing on the exchange of technical expertise and the facilitation of structured dialogue[26]

2- The Maghreb Security Cooperation in response to regional security threats:

Within the framework of strengthening security cooperation among Arab Maghreb countries to confront regional security threats and implement the provisions of the Marrakech Treaty (1989), which aims to consolidate brotherhood, maintain peace and stability, and ensure the free movement of people, goods, and capital among its members.(The Treaty establishing the Arab Maghreb Union).

The last decade has witnessed advanced mechanisms for border control and intelligence sharing, particularly through the “Marrakech Joint Office” with the United Nations Office, which held its third session in Fes in June 2024. To adapt strategies to monitor the activities of digital terrorist groups and combat cybercrime. The Nouakchott process has also contributed to strengthening security cooperation frameworks between the Sahel countries and Morocco through the exchange of operational data and joint field training exercises since January 2024[27] economically, the Maghreb countries have intensified their efforts to build a comprehensive regional market, leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area, which entered into force in January 2021. This has contributed to boosting agricultural and industrial export capacities, while also opening avenues for joint investment in renewable energy and digitalization[28]

Culturally, cooperation has expanded through teachers and students exchange programs, as well as the launch of joint initiatives to preserve Islamic Arab heritage and reinforce Maghreb identity, one notable example is the “Maghreb Cultural Platform” project launched by UNESCO in 2022, which aims to foster academic research, encourage folk arts, and train

youth in the creative industries. Member states continue to organize joint annual festivals that promote cultural dialogue and support digital projects aimes at showcasing heritage through the virtual reality technologies, contributing to the preservation of identity and infusing new vitality into the regional cultural landscape. [29]

Conclusion:

The evolving geopolitical and security landscape of the Sahel and North Africa illustrates that Algeria faces mounting security threats requiring multidimensional strategic responses. By increasing its defense budget to 25.1 billion dollars in 2025, representing 16% of the national budget, Algeria demonstrates its commitment to reinforcing its defensive capabilities in the face of intensifying regional challenges.

Furthermore, the recent Memorandum of Understanding with the United States signals a significant shift in Algeria's foreign policy, reflecting a broader move to diversify its security partnerships beyond its traditional reliance on Russia. This initiative forms part of a larger strategy to enhance cooperation in areas such as military training, counterterrorism, and maritime security.

In light of these developments, it is imperative for Algeria to continue promoting a comprehensive security approach. Such as approach should not be limited to military dimensions, but must also incorporate economic and social development, as well as the strengthening of regional and international cooperation. An integrated approach will bolster both internal and regional stability, enabling Algeria to confront current and future security challenges with greater resilience.

The study concludes with the following key recommendations:

- ✓ Leverage international partnerships by expanding cooperation with global security actors.
- ✓ Invest in security technologies to modernize surveillance systems and improve rapid response capabilities to threats.
- ✓ Organize advanced training programs for military and security personnel in collaboration with partner nations, enhancing their capacity to address compex security threats.
- ✓ Prioritize economies development projects in border regions as a strategic entry point for protecting Algerian national security.
- ✓ Emphasize collective security approaches in international forums, and unilateralism in handling regionally rooted security crises.

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