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The Algerian Approach to Security and Development in the African Sahel Region Amid Rising Asymmetric Threats

المقاربة الجزائرية للأمن والتنمية بمنطقة الساحل الإفريقي في ظل تنامي
التهديدات اللاتماثلية

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Abstract:

The African Sahel region stands as one of the most dynamic and intricate areas globally, having experienced a profound transformation post-Cold War. This transformation has rendered the region a fertile breeding ground for the activities of terrorist organizations and networks of organized crime. Several contributory factors, including the frailty of state infrastructures, suboptimal economic performance, and low developmental indices, have collectively fostered instability within the region. Addressing security concerns in the Sahel underscores the necessity of formulating multifaceted strategies that integrate security, economic, political, cultural, and social interventions.

Reliance solely on security measures is insufficient to curb the prevailing risks; instead, these measures should be complemented by comprehensive developmental initiatives that broaden opportunities across various sectors. Such strategies aim to tackle the root causes of security issues, prompting Algeria, a pivotal regional player and a steadfast neighbor to the nations of the Sahel under extraordinary circumstances, to pursue a dual-faceted strategy that augments overall development while mitigating the extant political and military challenges, thereby confronting crises and their potential future impacts

Keywords: African Sahel; Security; Development; Strategy; Algeria.

الملخص باللغة العربية:

منطقة الساحل الإفريقي هي إحدى البقاع الأكثر تعقيدا ونشاطا في العالم الحالي، حيث شهدت تحولا جذريا بعد نهاية الحرب الباردة، لتصبح منطقة خصبة لأنشطة الجماعات الإرهابية والجريمة المنظمة. وقد ساهمت عدة عوامل كضعف البنية القومية للدول، وتدني الأداء الاقتصادي، وانخفاض مستويات التنمية بجانب أسباب أخرى أسهمت في عدم الاستقرار بالمنطقة.

ويؤكد تحقيق الأمن في الساحل الإفريقي على أهمية إيجاد آليات للتعامل مع التحديات المختلفة، عبر الجمع بين الحلول الأمنية والاقتصادية والسياسية والثقافية والاجتماعية، إذ أن الحلول الأمنية وحدها لا تكفي لمواجهة المخاطر، ويجب أن تكون مصحوبة بخيارات تنموية متنوعة تعزز الفرص في كافة المجالات والاتجاهات، وهذا يعبر عنه باستراتيجيات الأمن والتنمية التي تستهدف معالجة الأسباب الجذرية للتحديات الأمنية، ما دفع الجزائر كأحد الفاعلين الإقليميين والجار الدائم لدول المنطقة التي تشهد ظروفًا استثنائية، إلى تبني استراتيجية تجمع بين تعزيز التنمية الشاملة والحد من التحديات السياسية والعسكرية الراهنة لمواجهة الأزمات وتداعياتها في المستقبل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الساحل الإفريقي؛ الأمن؛ التنمية؛ الاستراتيجية؛ الجزائر.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Historically, the Sahel and Sahara regions have functioned as vital intersections for the convergence of diverse peoples, cultures, and civilizations, acting as a pivotal axis linking North, Central, and Southern Africa. However, due to a confluence of complex factors, this region has transformed into a nexus of conflict and security threats, instilling concern and apprehension among its residents and the global community.

The African Sahel is currently grappling with a myriad of renewed security challenges, including international terrorism, transnational organized crime, pervasive hunger, and poverty, compounded by recurrent droughts which exacerbate the crises in Libya and Mali. These challenges amplify the region's vulnerability and persistent tension.

The lax surveillance of geographical borders within the region has facilitated its breach, exacerbating the security situation. Algeria's engagement with the Sahel region's issues is deeply rooted, primarily driven by geographical proximity and its significant exposure to this tumultuous region. This exposure has led to a multitude of persistent and complex security threats at its terrestrial borders, carrying profound implications and severe repercussions for Algerian national security.

This study delves into the nature and nuances of the Algerian developmental strategy in addressing the asymmetric security threats in the African Sahel. Key sub-questions that emerge from the central problematique include:

- What are the predominant asymmetric threats that Algeria faces in the Sahel region?
- What are the core components of Algeria's developmental strategy in the African Sahel?

1.1 Analysis Methodology:

This study explores the aforementioned issues and tests the underlying hypotheses utilizing a diverse array of methodologies and analytical frameworks, notably the systems analysis method developed by David Easton and the systematic analytical approach proposed by Samuel Huntington in his seminal 1991 work "The Third Wave."

Employing these methodologies, the research is structured around two principal axes: the first axis concentrates on examining the geostrategic role of the African Sahel amidst the troubled backdrop of developmental indicators, which are influenced by the escalation of asymmetric threats in the region.

The second axis aims to illuminate the principal facets of the developmental strategy adopted by Algeria in addressing the challenges of the African Sahel region.

1.2 Hypotheses:

From the research problematique, the hypothesis for the study's topic is formulated as follows:

- The escalation of asymmetric threats in the African Sahel region undermines the effectiveness of the Algerian strategy for development towards the Sahel.

1.3 Study Objectives:

Every serious scientific research has goals it aims to achieve, through uncovering facts related to concerns and issues of the society or region, or scientific academic goals that help in forming a particular perception of the phenomenon under study, and predicting a set of future results. Therefore, the study's topic seeks to achieve a set of goals, namely:

- To highlight the security and developmental reality in the African Sahel.
- To compare economic growth rates and human development among countries in the

region to identify the poorest and most affected countries.

_ To study Algeria's experience in an attempt to propose radical solutions through a comprehensive strategy for establishing security and advancing

2. Asymmetric threats and development indicators in the African Sahel region.

1.2 Morphology of the African Sahel Region

The term "African Sahel" traditionally means the coast or the southern edge of the desert, referring to the geographical region. The definition of the African Sahel is associated with the traditional concept of the beach or the southern margin of the Sahara Desert, and geographically delineates the southern areas of the Sahel desert and the Tuareg regions, reflecting the perception of the area as a conflict zone.

However, many experts, such as Lacoste in 2011, have expanded this definition to include a region extending from the Mediterranean Sea to the north, to Mauritania and the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Red Sea Basin to the east, and down to Chad in the south, placing the African Sahel at the heart of the Sahara Desert⁽¹⁾

Based on this criterion, the European Union has more narrowly defined the region to include Mauritania, Mali, and Niger as core countries, along with some areas of Burkina Faso and Chad. Another definition extends from Mauritania in the west to northern Chad in the east, while the broadest and most comprehensive definition considers the Sahel region to lie between the Sahara Desert to the north and the savannah to the south, stretching from Senegal and Mauritania in the west to Ethiopia in the east⁽²⁾

Given the dynamic changes in the African Sahel, this has led researchers to adopt more

flexible definitions that encompass a broad area between North and West Africa⁽³⁾

2.2 The Strategic Importance of the African Sahel for Algeria

The African Sahel is an integral part of Algerian national security and a fundamental component of its geopolitical policy. Algeria shares over 2837 kilometers of land borders, representing approximately 44.7% of its total land borders with Sahel countries (Western Sahara, Mauritania, Mali, and Niger, aside from the borders with Libya).

Although the high population density in Algeria's northern cities and the variation in skin color may generate a greater sense of belonging to the Maghreb and Mediterranean space than to Africa, Algeria remains fundamentally an African country. It serves as the gateway to North Africa and is a principal pillar in the African strategy, especially after the division of Sudan, making Algeria the largest country by area on the continent⁽⁴⁾

2.3 Main Asymmetric Threats in the Sahel and Sahara Region

This section will address three of the most significant asymmetric security challenges that pose the greatest danger to the Sahel region, characterized by the severity of their impacts and consequences: It is well-known that drug trafficking is the root cause of many security disturbances and conflicts in both Guinea-Bissau and Mali.

Additionally, the spread of poverty and corruption has played a significant role in exacerbating these problems⁽⁵⁾ The presence of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and its branches, such as the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, and Boko Haram, along with other groups like the Islamic Ansar Dine Group and about 11 armed organizations in southern Libya, have contributed to the flourishing of drug

trafficking in the Sahel, exploiting the weakness of governments in the region⁽⁶⁾.

Terrorism is one of the major obstacles to peace efforts, national integration, state-building, and governance improvement across the African continent. Since 2010, the continent has witnessed an unprecedented increase in terrorist acts and jihadist groups, with extremist religious movements intensifying from the east to the west, leaving behind numerous victims and injured.

Data from the Global Terrorism Index 2014 indicated that 18 African countries are among the top 50 facing terrorist challenges⁽⁷⁾. The Global Terrorism Index for 2019 confirmed that Boko Haram is among the world's most lethal terrorist groups, with an increase in the number of victims of its attacks.

Boko Haram's terrorist activities are primarily concentrated in three countries: Nigeria, Cameroon, and Niger, and they also carry out attacks in Chad and Burkina Faso from time to time⁽⁸⁾

2.4 Development Indicators in the African Sahel Region:

This section will address the state of development in the African Sahel region, focusing on the concept of human security which emphasizes the importance of achieving sustainable human development and prioritizing the individual and citizen.

The economic situation of the Sahel countries that form the focus of this study (Chad, Mali, Libya, Algeria, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso) will be highlighted over varying time periods to investigate these countries' economic conditions and determine whether economic circumstances are the cause of the region's peoples' suffering, or whether it is due to other factors and variables.

Table 1. Economic growth rates for the African Sahel countries based on African Bank statistics.

Country	Algeria	Chad	Mali	Niger	Libya	Mauritania	Burkina Faso
Years							
2020	2.3%	1.1%	4.2%	0.1%	6.2%	3.7%	2.1%
2021	3.4%	6.1%	2.1%	2.0%	7.8%	6.9%	2.7%

The analysis of development issues in the African Sahel region, grounded in the data and statistics presented in the preceding table, distinctly accentuates considerable fluctuations in the growth rates among the nations within this region. A notable point of interest is Niger's economic growth rate for 2021, which saw a substantial increment of 1.5% compared to the previous year, where growth barely reached 1%. This uptick in Niger's economy drew considerable attention, reflecting a pivotal moment of economic advancement.

Mauritania, similarly, demonstrated commendable economic stability, registering a growth increase of 0.6% in 2021—a rate that stands out as one of the highest among the Sahel economies under study. Experts attribute this stability to the inherently steady state of Mauritania and the culturally driven modesty of its society, which contrasts with the propensity towards lavishness observed in other regional communities.

Libya, meanwhile, experienced a significant enhancement in its economic growth rates for 2021, climbing to 7.8% from a previous rate of 3.7% in 2020. This positive trajectory in Libya's economic landscape is largely due to ameliorations in the security and political climates, coupled with a boost in oil production.

Notably, this increase came after the state successfully regained control over oil production facilities, which had been

previously commandeered by militias. This period also saw heightened calls for autonomy from the central government by factions in the Cyrenaica region, adding complexity to the national discourse.

In a similar vein, Algeria has maintained stability in its economic growth rates, recording an increase of 3.4% in 2021, up from 2.3% in 2020. This growth is largely credited to the government's policies aimed at reducing imports and stimulating local investment. Furthermore, there was a notable decline in oil revenues, which, in 2020, still exceeded \$31 billion—markedly lower compared to the peak of \$186.7 billion in 2013, when global oil prices were at their highest.

Chad is vigorously pursuing substantial economic growth through strategic borrowing from the International Monetary Fund, where its economic growth peaked at 6.1% in 2021, up from 4.2% in the preceding year. Regarding its trade balance, Chad recorded a surplus, with export revenues reaching \$6.4 billion compared to imports worth \$1.8 billion in 2013. Despite these figures, Chad has not managed to mitigate the impact of negative economic growth, a scenario that unfolded alongside the commencement of global economic recovery.

The economic scenario in Mali is among those with the lowest growth rates in the region. Despite experiencing minor fluctuations, Mali has seen a stable growth rate, albeit the economic growth figures have remained modestly positive, achieving 2.1% in 2021. The ongoing security and political turmoil in Mali continues to cast a shadow over its economic growth prospects.

Burkina Faso's economic growth has consistently been positive, with growth rates of 2.1% and 2.7% for 2020 and 2021, respectively. However, the country's trade balance has been in deficit, largely due to the global decline in gold prices—a crucial

point since gold represents the primary source of hard currency for Burkina Faso.

By delving into and analyzing the economic growth statistics of the African Sahel countries over two consecutive years, it becomes clear that fluctuations in the global markets profoundly influence these nations' economies. These economies are heavily reliant on exporting raw materials, which nearly constitute their entire export portfolio. Thus, the economic stability of these countries is inextricably linked to and influenced by global raw material prices.

In conclusion, the modest economic growth observed across most of the Sahel countries in this study is directly tied to the global economic downturn triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to significant economic activity losses due to health measures and imposed global quarantines, along with prevailing uncertainty throughout 2020 and 2021 regarding the conduct of economic transactions.

3. The Comprehensive Algerian Strategy in the African Sahel Region

The Algerian strategy is based on a comprehensive developmental approach that relies on the principle of mutual dependence between two fundamental elements: security as a basic condition for achieving development and activating them simultaneously in the African Sahel region.

This includes the actual and tangible implementation of the concept of sustainable local development, which covers various aspects of human life: economically, socially, politically... It also includes the participation of the state along with other actors such as non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

3.1 Economic and Social Mechanisms of the Algerian Strategy in the African Sahel Region

Algeria has recognized the importance of development in enhancing security, prompting it to advocate for developmental policies in the countries of the African Sahel region, despite the challenges faced by some of these countries, such as state-building issues and risks of internal divisions.

Local and regional initiatives have been launched to address these challenges with the aim of achieving development and peace in the region. Algeria, for its part, has adopted a developmental approach in the Sahel region to address existing security problems, considering its dealings with the African space as an economic and political investment necessary to ensure stability.

The Role of Algeria in Activating the NEPAD Initiative:

The NEPAD initiative is concerned with addressing challenges facing the African continent by linking sustainable development from both economic and social perspectives with political development, the latter associated with democracy through the establishment of the rule of law, institutions, good governance, and respect for human rights.

This approach aims to enhance stability and security, thereby creating a safe environment for humans in Africa⁽⁹⁾ Algeria, through its adoption of the NEPAD initiative, strives to launch developmental projects in Africa, and to build a developmental approach aimed at eliminating terrorism and organized crime, especially in the African Sahel region.

This initiative focuses on the need to implement necessary measures to prevent risks of conflicts and terrorism, emphasizing the enhancement of the role of regional institutions and supporting peacebuilding in the post-conflict phase, as well as strengthening the foundations of good governance as a fundamental element for political, economic, and social security and stability⁽¹⁰⁾

Algerian diplomacy through NEPAD has adopted a new African strategy based on true partnership, taking into account mutual interests and equal opportunities for all African countries, including those of the Sahel.

Through this approach, Algeria recognizes the importance of supporting the continent in improving its infrastructure and major projects that contribute to providing new opportunities for exchange between and within regions.

In this context, Algeria has made significant progress in implementing major projects that rely on enhancing regional integration and connectivity, such as the trans-Saharan highway project linking Algeria and Lagos via Niger, alongside the gas pipeline project that connects Nigeria to Europe via Algeria and Niger⁽¹¹⁾

Algeria and Economic Cooperation with African Sahel Countries:

Algeria is continuously making efforts to enhance economic exchange relations with the countries of the African Sahel. In this context, we will highlight some of the main economic projects linking Algeria with the Sahel countries, notably the Trans-Sahara Highway project.

Trans-Sahara Highway Project (Algeria – Lagos):

Algeria has embraced the project of expanding communication networks through the establishment of the foundational infrastructure for the road extending from Algeria to Lagos, which coincides with a project to lay a gas pipeline from Nigeria to Europe through Algerian territory and several countries in West Africa.

This important project, previously known as the African Unity Road, was launched about four decades ago in 1971 and represents one of the most prominent continental corridors with a length of approximately 9,400 kilometers.

The project aims to enhance economic integration between the Maghreb and the Sahel region and facilitate trade exchange across a large part of the African continent with Europe.

In its pursuit to create an environment conducive to economic development and facilitate trade exchange, leaders of the six countries participating in the project (Algeria, Tunisia, Mali, Niger, Chad, and Nigeria) revived the idea of this ambitious project in the early sixties, affirming its significant role in breaking the isolation of vast desert areas and enhancing economic and trade exchanges, especially by providing access to Mediterranean ports for sub-Saharan countries to facilitate access to European markets⁽¹²⁾

The governments of the six countries have implemented concrete support measures for this project, focusing their efforts on achieving its strategic goals to combat poverty, facilitate regional cooperation, and take advantage of external trade opportunities amid globalization⁽¹³⁾

Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline Project:

This project forms a strategic foundation for the European Union, where the gas pipeline, also known as the NIGAL line, aims to transport gas from Nigeria to Algeria and then to Europe, passing through Niger, covering a distance estimated at 4,128 kilometers (1,037 kilometers across Nigeria, 841 kilometers across Niger, and 2,130 kilometers across Algeria).

This line is expected to transport between 20 to 30 billion cubic meters of gas annually, with a cost currently exceeding 10 billion dollars, in addition to another 3 billion dollars allocated for creating the necessary infrastructure to collect gas in Nigeria.

In June 2009, an agreement was signed between the governments of Algeria, Niger, and Nigeria to commence establishing this gas infrastructure⁽¹⁴⁾

The initiation of this project was announced in 2002 during a high-level meeting between Algeria and Nigeria, where an agreement was reached between Sonatrach and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), but the project remained pending until 2009, when former Nigerian President "Goodluck Jonathan" brought it back into focus during an African Union summit in 2013.

Over the years, there have been statements about financial and security obstacles hindering the start of the project, especially in the Niger Delta region, where the Niger Delta Liberation Movement has warned of security threats that could impact the project.

Additionally, the agreement between Morocco and Nigeria in May 2017, signed in Rabat to study the feasibility of creating a gas pipeline passing through the west coast of Africa on the Atlantic Ocean, has increased the ambiguity about the future of the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline project linking Algeria and Nigeria, indicating new challenges that may face the implementation of this ambitious project.

Optical Fiber Network Project:

Algeria is addressing the project of linking with optical fibers along the Algeria-Abuja path, passing through Zinder in Niger. This project, which comes within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), aims to meet Africa's urgent need to enhance broadband communication networks, especially those facilitating intercontinental connections.

The total length of the Algeria-Abuja optical fiber line is about 4,500 kilometers, with Algeria covering 2,200 kilometers of it, while Niger's share extends to 900 kilometers and Nigeria's to 800 kilometers.

The decision to establish this linking cable was made during the first session of the high joint committee between Algeria and

Nigeria in January 2002, and Niger joined the project in March 2003. In 2008, the participating countries approved the technical specifications for the implementation of the cable (Ministry of Post, Telecommunications, Wire and Wireless Communications, and Digitization).

In its efforts to enhance development in the Sahel region, Algeria canceled debts amounting to \$902 million for 14 African countries in 2013, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Mauritania, with Mauritania benefiting the most with a share of \$250 million.

Algeria also invested \$200 million to support the development of Niger and Mali and donated \$10 million to the Malian government to revitalize development in northern Mali and affected areas (Gao, Kidal, and Timbuktu) in 2010⁽¹⁵⁾

Cooperation between Algeria and the African Sahel countries, especially with Mauritania, Mali, and Niger, has been consolidated in various fields including higher education, vocational training, medical expertise exchange, and sectors of agriculture and irrigation, as well as in the energy field, where Sonatrach obtained contracts for exploration in the "Kaouar" region north of Niger.

Despite this cooperation, the economic scope remains limited and has not yet reached the level of economic integration among these countries, as most agreements have focused more on financial support and aid provided by Algeria to the Sahel countries, with a significant focus on security aspects.

3.2 The Algerian Security Strategy in the African Sahel Region:

Algeria is working to strengthen its geostrategic ties and international relations across various fields, particularly in economic, security, and military aspects,

leveraging its extensive experience in counterterrorism. This experience, particularly after the events of September 11, has paved the way for adopting a security approach aimed at combating terrorism on both regional and international levels.

Given the ongoing challenges in the African Sahel region and their direct impact on Algeria's security, there has emerged a need among Algerian policymakers to intervene in order to counter these threats through a set of mechanisms aimed at ensuring regional stability.

The Algerian Approach to Counterterrorism in the African Sahel:

Algeria considers one of the most positive aspects of its approach to terrorism issues and its prevention to be the reinstatement of human rights foundations and democratic principles within legal and diplomatic efforts to combat terrorism and crime.

Algeria has emphasized the need to distinguish between terrorism and liberation movements, thereby presenting a new model for the African Union in dealing with these issues, where it has been stressed that human rights must not be compromised or political dialogue shut down under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

In its efforts to combat terrorism in the Sahel, Algeria has employed all possible mechanisms and approaches to eradicate it, including:

3.3 The Cultural Approach through the Use of Specific Mechanisms:

Algeria adopts a cultural approach in its fight against terrorism, using a set of specific methods, including:

- **The Tijaniyyah Method:**

Widely spread in Africa, especially in Sahel countries, it works to combat terrorism through awareness, guidance, and religious

education within mosques, schools, and zawiyas (religious schools).

- **Launching the Quran Radio:**

Aiming to reach beyond Algeria's southern borders to persuade terrorist groups to abandon actions that contradict the teachings of Islam.

- **The Role of the Mosque:**

The mosque serves as a major media outlet and communicative space in Algeria and Sahel countries, contributing to raising awareness about the dangers of terrorism and building positive personalities capable of positively influencing society and the state.

3.4 The Algerian Approach to Resolving the Tuareg Crisis:

The Tuareg issue represents one of the complex challenges facing Algerian national security for a long time and is given special priority within the Algerian security files compared to other threats.

Since the early 1990s, challenges arising from rebellions in northern Mali and Niger have prompted Algeria to intervene diplomatically to avoid any international intervention that might affect its south and create new points of tension.

Aware of the risks posed by the Tuareg problem to its national security, Algeria has taken several steps to address this issue⁽¹⁶⁾. Algerian concerns include the potential emergence of extremist factions among Algerian Tuaregs advocating for separatist demands similar to those of the Tuaregs in Mali and Niger.

Moreover, the possibility of reviving the idea of creating a "Greater Sahara State" and adopting the idea of independence by Algerian Tuaregs is conceivable, leading to risks of international intervention in southern Algeria. To address these challenges, Algeria has followed a multidimensional strategy that includes:

- _ Enhancing security along its 6,280 km borders, by equipping border guard units with modern equipment and placing them under the supervision of the National Gendarmerie affiliated with the Ministry of Defense.

- _ Active diplomacy, where Algeria has sought to achieve peace in the region through the Tamanrasset Agreement in January 1991 between the Malian government and the Azawad Movement, which resulted in granting Azawad autonomy and promises for the development of the region.

In the context of its counterterrorism efforts, Algeria has also focused on distinguishing between terrorism and liberation movements, emphasizing the importance of respecting human rights and democratic principles in this conflict.

Algeria has participated in active diplomacy to facilitate dialogue between the Tuaregs and the governments of Mali and Niger, hosting several diplomatic rounds to achieve peace and cease armed actions. Through these efforts, Algeria aims to achieve lasting stability in the region and avoid crises that may arise from Tuareg challenges, while maintaining national security and supporting regional development.

Study Results:

Our research has culminated in several significant findings: The African Sahel region is increasingly recognized as a fertile breeding ground for security threats, presenting a direct challenge to the national security of Algeria and its neighbors. This situation results in a substantial security vacuum across the region, complicating efforts to mitigate and manage the associated risks effectively.

The escalation of terrorism, fueled by the proliferation of numerous active armed groups, notably "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb," with its extensive network of

branches and varied operational strategies, exacerbates the region's vulnerability.

Additionally, the rise in organized crime, interconnected with other pernicious activities such as cannabis and drug trafficking, arms dealing, and kidnapping for ransom, contributes significantly to the financial empowerment of these groups. The surge in human trafficking activities, within the context of illegal immigration, positions countries like Algeria as critical transit and potentially permanent residence points for numerous illegal immigrants originating from Mali, Niger, and Chad.

Given these dynamics, the African Sahel region is exposed to protracted security challenges that are formidable to surmount, despite the diverse strategies employed by various actors at local, regional, and international levels due to the intricate nature of security risks and threats inherent in the region.

The persistent security threats in the African Sahel pose substantial challenges to Algeria's internal and foreign policies, forming a critical component in the quest to foster peace and bolster stability in the region.

Furthermore, a noticeable deficit in cooperation among the Sahel countries exacerbates the situation, with Algeria finding itself within an expansive crisis zone; hence, a collaborative effort among the nations of the Sahel, alongside Algeria, is imperative. The African Sahel stands as one of the areas of global concern due to persistent instability, significant lapses in security, and the lack of opportunities for sustainable development.

Our analysis corroborates the hypotheses posited, asserting that the attainment of security and development in the Sahel can only emerge from a deep, collective comprehension of the varied security threats by the region's policymakers, coupled with concerted efforts to devise substantive

solutions to these issues. To lay the groundwork for a unified security and development strategy among the Sahel nations, we propose the following measures:

- Reevaluate the administrative frameworks of the countries in the region, identifying them as pivotal factors in state failure and the proliferation of threats in the Sahel. This review should emphasize the importance of establishing a democratic system that ensures inclusive political participation and equitable wealth distribution.

- Tackle the intricate challenge of terrorism, characterized by its transnational dimensions and links to other dangers such as drugs and weapons. Effective counter-terrorism strategies require fostering trust among nations and adhering to a cohesive approach to comprehend and counteract terrorist threats, while eschewing foreign interventions.

- Establish a robust educational infrastructure aimed at cultivating the citizenry as a fundamental component of the developmental agenda, thereby ensuring the emergence of educated generations cognizant of their duties toward constructing a brighter future for their nations.

- Develop a developmental philosophy that integrates security consciousness, and enhances civic and security awareness, underscoring the symbiotic relationship between citizens and security forces in achieving stability.

- Implement economic strategies that extend beyond dependence on raw materials, channeling the proceeds from these resources into major developmental initiatives in industrial and agricultural sectors to bolster food security and sustainable growth.

Our study determines that achieving security and development in the African Sahel necessitates a concerted and profound commitment from the region's leaders to prioritize and invest in the human element, regarding it as the cornerstone of the

transition from a state of upheaval to stability and prosperity.

The African Sahel confronts novel unconventional security challenges alongside the evolution of existing internal conflicts. This complex situation, compounded by competing foreign interventions, amplifies the complexity of the scenario for Algeria, compelling it to adopt multidimensional strategies to tackle these challenges and prevent their spillover into its territory.

This research elucidates the causes and key factors underlying the security issues in the African Sahel, their ramifications for Algeria, and how the Algerian system is responding to them. It also analyzes the influence of regional and international endeavors on Algerian interests and its capacity to foster enduring peace in the region.

The study emphasizes the critical importance of peacebuilding as an all-encompassing initiative that includes measures designed to avert conflicts and support the establishment of a society and state characterized by comprehensive and sustainable peace. It also highlights the necessity of differentiating between practical and structural prevention to address the underlying causes of conflicts and promote enduring peace.

The study advocates for a peacebuilding approach that encompasses both tangible and ethical dimensions, focusing on transformative processes that face significant challenges in measurement and implementation. Establishing peace in the Sahel region necessitates long-term efforts that transcend immediate conflict resolution strategies and aim to gradually establish conditions that eliminate the need for violence as a means of dispute resolution, underscoring the importance of constructing a sustainable and holistic peace that extends beyond material considerations to include qualitative and ethical processes.

5. Conclusion:

Algeria's strategic approach to the crisis in the African Sahel demonstrates a steadfast commitment to diplomatic principles, prioritizing dialogue over direct military intervention. However, recent events have compelled Algeria to adjust its stance, such as permitting French aircraft access to its airspace in response to developments in Mali. Despite these shifts, Algeria maintains a cautious approach, balancing regional stability with its diplomatic agenda.

On the developmental front, Algeria faces formidable challenges within the evolving global landscape. It continues to champion developmental initiatives in the African Sahel, aiming to launch projects that address terrorism and organized crime while promoting sustainable development. Key strategies include strengthening regional institutions, implementing peacebuilding measures, and advocating for good governance, all crucial components for achieving lasting security and development in the region.

Algeria has a long history of playing a significant role in uplifting the Sahel from underdevelopment. However, it confronts harsh realities such as poverty, conflict, and debt prevalent across the continent. Despite its efforts to integrate Sahelian nations and combat marginalization, Algeria's initiatives have faced obstacles, yielding only modest outcomes on the international and African stages.

Economic cooperation faces challenges due to ongoing issues like the Western Sahara conflict, border disputes, and historical Libyan interests in the Sahel. Algeria also contends with reduced diplomatic influence in the region, the presence of external actors like the United States, France, and China—particularly in economic spheres—and the rising threat posed by diverse terrorist factions, further complicating regional dynamics.

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