

Regional Security Cooperation in Addressing the Threats of the Libyan Crisis: An Analysis of the Maghreb Neighbourhood Approach

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Abstract:

The question of state stability is no longer a matter of concern for the state alone but also concerns its neighboring states. This article seeks to reveal the regional security cooperation that emerged in the aftermath of the Libyan crisis, particularly after developments indicated that it was tending towards becoming a chronic crisis. The article also aims to evaluate those cooperative policies designed to confront undesirable situations. What is happening in Libya constitutes a situation that worries its neighbors, given that the Libyan civil war has created security threats that affect their security and stability. The need for security cooperation among Libya's neighboring states has emerged to confront the various security threats arising from the crisis, based on shared principles and objectives aimed at enhancing their regional security and stabilizing the region, given the repercussions on their internal situations and national security. It also requires them to intensify their joint cooperation, contain the various security threats, and reject the settlement of the Libyan crisis according to the visions and interests of foreign powers that do not serve them.

Keywords: regional security cooperation, security threats, neighboring states, Libya.

1. Introduction

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the decline of bipolarity had a significant impact on the emergence of a new international situation characterized by numerous changes and developments on the international scene. The most prominent of these was the shift in the nature of conflicts, with a decline in the proportion of inter-state conflicts in favor of intra-state conflicts, along with their repercussions and effects at all levels. The question of understanding the real causes and motives for their occurrence, as well as the methods and approaches to their settlement and resolution, has become of paramount importance both domestically and internationally. Given the expansion of the concept of security and the multiplicity of its dimensions, the borders of security are no longer confined to the borders of the

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state but have exceeded them. Crises and the absence of stability and security within states produce outcomes that transcend their traditional borders by exporting the repercussions of these crises to their geographical neighbours and regional surroundings. This is what the North African region, both the Maghreb and the Sahel countries, has experienced during the recent period.

The end of 2010 witnessed profound changes affecting the political scene. With the transformations brought about by the so-called Arab Spring, the intensity and seriousness of these threats to regional security increased, particularly given the exacerbation and deterioration of security conditions in the region. This resulted from state failure and the fall of some political regimes in the region, such as those in Tunisia and Egypt, and the deterioration of the security situation in Libya, which became the primary source of various threats to its neighbouring states. This entailed repercussions that affected the regional security of the region in general, and Libya's neighbouring states in particular, prompting them to move to confront these threats.

The importance of the topic stems from the interest in this type of complex and multi-party security issue, embodied in the Libyan crisis, given the effects and repercussions it causes at all levels, especially at the domestic and regional levels, and due to its serious repercussions on the regional area, and the necessity of finding solutions to confront these security repercussions through a set of approaches proposed by the neighbouring states.

On this basis, the problem statement of this study can be formulated around the following central question:

To what extent has Maghreb regional security cooperation contributed to providing effective approaches to confront the impact of the Libyan crisis on the region?

This general question requires deconstruction to identify the key aspects of the topic, which necessitates posing several sub-questions as follows:

- What is the impact of the security repercussions of the Libyan conflict on the regional security of the Maghreb region?
- What are the most important approaches of the Maghreb states to confronting the threats of the Libyan crisis?
- To what extent is the regional approach capable, given foreign interventions?

We adopt in this study the following set of hypotheses:

H1: Confronting the security threats of the Libyan crisis is contingent upon proposing a set of initiatives relating to cooperation and settlement of the crisis simultaneously, within a path of regional security cooperation.

H2: The Libyan crisis, given its trajectory, appears to be becoming a chronic crisis that poses security challenges that no single state can confront alone.

H3: To achieve regional security cooperation, convergence and coordination of objectives and means are required.

Methodology Adopted:

The nature of the topic is closely related to security studies as a critical approach productive of interpretation and analysis, and it is central to the use in this article. It is also essential to adopt the approach of regional integration theorists, particularly in their analysis of the motives for regional security cooperation, the creation of regional security policy, and the distribution of its gains. Thus, we are at the heart of functional analysis. Furthermore, the study of crises and conflicts places the subject of this article at the core of the concerns of international relations in general. Accordingly, it is central to use multiple approaches from this field.

2. Literature Review

2.1 A Conceptual Approach to Security Cooperation and Regional Security

2.1.1 Security Cooperation

The concept of security cooperation is based on the principle of achieving security and stability and establishing a common area of peace through strengthening political and security dialogue and respecting legal principles, especially international ones. This type of cooperation also emphasises respect for fundamental principles in the field of human rights and democracy, and relies on dialogue as a mechanism for resolving conflicts. In addition, most security issues no longer require individual action to prevent them and avoid their effects, but rather require cooperative approaches from states (Ghanem, 2012, p. 25).

Karl Deutsch defined security cooperation by focusing on the formation of the community, which he defined as "a human group integrated within a specific geographical area, generating a collective feeling that social problems must be solved and can be solved through peaceful change processes, through the establishment of institutions and practices of sufficient strength and scope to be relied upon for peaceful change among its members" (Deutsch, 1968, p. 22).

2.1.2 Regional Security

The concept of regional security emerged following the Second World War, when regional security bodies and organisations were established. Their emergence was linked to factors of geopolitical geography of continents, sea-surrounded regions, history and culture, and a set of subjective and objective perceptions of the region (Al-Ali, 2017, p. 220).

The concept of regional security contains a composite geographical and political content simultaneously: a geographical content by virtue of its concern with security issues related to a geographically specific region with defined characteristics and elements, and a political content by virtue of its concern with security issues related to this region from the perspective of states, i.e., the social political units based in this region (Murad, 2017, p. 57).

Regional security is also defined as the policy of a group of states belonging to a single region, seeking to enter into military organisation and cooperation among the region's states to prevent any foreign power from intervening in this region. It also works to secure a group of states internally and repel external threats from them, thereby guaranteeing them security if the interests, purposes, and objectives of this group are compatible, or if the challenges they face are similar (Eidoun, 2015, p. 14).

It also means the agreement of several states within a single regional framework to plan to confront the threats they face internally and externally (Al-Ali, 2017, p. 220).

Regional security is linked to what is known as the region system or the sub-systems of the international system. The establishment of regions or sub-systems presupposes the availability of a set of conditions, foremost among which are geographical proximity, the presence of a central regional state, the presence of a common identity, the presence of a national consensus on supreme goals, and the presence of intensive political interactions (Al-Mashat, n.d., p. 39).

Regional security relates to the role of the central regional state in promoting factors of attraction, limiting factors of divergent interaction, affirming the common identity of member states in a regional system, and reaching a consensus on supreme goals, especially those related to identifying the main sources of threat to regional security, identifying who are enemies and who are friends (Ghanem, 2012, p. 72).

3. Methods

This study adopts a qualitative analytical approach, drawing primarily on security studies as a critical framework for interpretation and analysis. The research employs the regional integration theoretical perspective, particularly its analysis of the motives for regional security cooperation, the creation of regional security policy, and the distribution of its gains. This places the study at the heart of functional analysis. Additionally, given that the subject concerns crises and conflicts, the study utilises multiple approaches from the field of international relations.

The data for this research are derived from secondary sources, including academic theses, peer-reviewed journal articles, books, official statements, and reports from regional and international organisations. The analysis focuses on the period following the 2011 Libyan crisis up to 2020, examining the security cooperation initiatives among Libya's Maghreb neighbours (Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Chad, Niger, and Sudan) and their approaches to containing the spillover effects of the Libyan conflict.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 The Security Repercussions of the Libyan Crisis on the Region's States

The Libyan case constituted a model for the impact of changes in internal conditions on neighbouring regional areas. Developments in the Libyan crisis have demonstrated the correlational relationship between the domestic and the regional. This was manifested not only in the contagion effect and regional permeability of the protest wave but also in the regionalisation of internal problems, as domestic interactions extended beyond Libyan borders (Ben Lemkhreb, 2018, p. 305).

Since the fall of the previous regime and the beginning of its crisis, the Libyan state has witnessed a worsening security situation in all its dimensions, which has had a significant impact on the regional area in general and neighbouring states in particular. This resulted in a set of repercussions that mobilised the region's states to contain them due to their significant impact. The most prominent of these repercussions can be summarised as follows:

- Increasing security threats: The collapse of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's regime prompted many individuals who had previously fought in the Libyan army to establish a set of military organisations, such as the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad. This movement exploited its connection to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which further exacerbated the situation, especially given the increasing exposure of areas not under state control to the movement of weapons and armed individuals alike. Thus, the Libyan crisis exacerbated the pathways of illicit trade in weapons, drugs,

and corruption, as well as terrorism and criminal organisations, which found in state collapse a fertile ground for operating away from any possibility of monitoring and confronting them (Fekiri, 2017, p. 327).

- The environment of instability and conflict within Libya transformed into a push environment through which illegal migration operations intensified, which had a negative impact on economic and social stability within receiving countries geographically close to Libya. Libya also represented a transit area for African migrants to neighbouring states fleeing the horrors of war, in addition to the dangers of communicable diseases accompanying these migrations, such as cholera and the virus transmitted by the tiger mosquito, as well as the spread of crimes such as rape and drug trafficking carried by migrants (Hadi, 2018, p. 60).

- The Libyan crisis witnessed foreign intervention that exacerbated the crisis and posed a security threat to the region's states, even if this intervention was limited to monitoring their airspace, because the intervening Western powers would find it easy to gather intelligence and spy on the region's states, especially by ascertaining their military capabilities and potential (Tebina, 2019, p. 215).

- The environment of state failure experienced by Libya has led to the exacerbation of the phenomenon of organised crime, which has become a direct threat to the security and stability of neighbouring countries, given the weakness of security control on borders with Libya. This results from the inability of neighbouring states, especially Sahel countries, to monitor their borders with Libya due to their rugged nature and longitudinal extension, which facilitated the work of groups active in this field, specialising in drug activities, money laundering, human trafficking, and others (Hadi, 2018, p. 60).

4.2 Approaches of the Maghreb Neighbouring States to Confronting the Security Threats of the Libyan Crisis

The disintegration of Libya's national territory gave rise to a set of security challenges for the surrounding states, particularly in the Maghreb. This prompted them to adopt a set of approaches to put an end to the ongoing conflict within Libya, especially given its export of the aforementioned threats to the region's states (Fekiri, 2017, p. 379).

It is worth recalling that the approaches under analysis are the context of the procedures and measures taken by the Maghreb countries, whether individually by each state separately, or those procedures and policies adopted collectively in a cooperative path among them. In general, we can identify a set of approaches to resolving the Libyan crisis, whether those contained in each country's policies or within the common framework, meaning they worked to make their vision shared with others. They were generally based on settlement and containment, preventing exacerbation and limiting its spread to the region's states. This can be observed through an analysis of each vision separately.

4.2.1 The Algerian Approach to Resolving the Libyan Crisis

Algeria's intensive movements to resolve the Libyan crisis aim to translate its vision of advancing the political solution on the ground, thereby preventing the crisis from returning to square one, which would have negative effects on neighbouring states (Hajazi, 2019). Algeria's vision for advancing the political solution in Libya is based on a set of constants, the most prominent of which are as follows:

- Continuing the earnest pursuit of achieving comprehensive national reconciliation in Libya without exclusion within the framework of Libyan dialogue, with the participation of all active Libyan parties in the dialogue process and the ongoing political track in the country.

- Rejecting any military intervention in Libya and any foreign interference in Libya's internal affairs, on the basis that it will not resolve the crisis but rather increase its complexities. It also emphasises that the dialogue should include all Libyan parties, regardless of their orientations and political affiliations, and works to ensure the unity of Libyan civil institutions, including the Presidential Council, the House of Representatives, the State Council, and security institutions, to carry out their duties to maintain security (Belarabi, 2019).
- Involving cadres of the former Libyan regime and their supporters in the political dialogue process, on the basis that they enjoy a degree of political confidence and influence within Libyan society, which may contribute to completing the national reconciliation process.
- Establishing a Supreme Military Council to assume the position of Supreme Commander of the Libyan Army and exercise its duties. Its composition includes three parties: members of the Presidential Council, the Commander of the Libyan National Army, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aguila Saleh. This is to address the crisis of the division of the Libyan armed forces and as a way out of the dilemma of who assumes command of the Libyan army, which is one of the fundamental points of disagreement between the forces supporting Haftar on the one hand and those opposing his leadership of the army on the other (Hajazi, 2019).
- Activating the role of Libyan bodies emanating from the Libyan Political Agreement and supporting the capabilities of the legitimate Libyan government—referring to the Government of National Accord—to enable it to combat terrorism, stop the flow of migrants, and address economic and social problems (Hajazi, 2019).

The Algerian approach, which rejects foreign military intervention in Libya and calls for giving precedence to the language of dialogue among Libyan factions, is the only way, according to the Algerian vision, to resolve the political crisis in Libya. The diplomatic landing and government meetings that began in the recent period reveal the importance of the Algerian approach in its endeavour to find a solution to the issue and achieve a convergent understanding of the crisis's outcomes. Algeria typically adopts a policy that can be described as partnership rather than alliance, by adopting a comprehensive approach that begins with sparing Libyan blood and then moves to the dialogue table under the auspices of the United Nations (Yahi, 2020).

The role of foreign powers has become more exposed and evident. What Algeria advocates stems from data on the ground, and it is natural that the call be directed to the United Nations as one of the most prominent poles capable of taking a decisive stance on the issue. What Algeria possesses are perceptions based on realistic facts aimed at unity and peace among Libyans, not solutions that reflect special interests. This preserves Libyan territorial unity, which has been at stake several times, and would also reduce the present or imminent threat to all neighbouring states of the region (Mahdi, 2020).

4.2.2 The Tunisian Approach to Resolving the Libyan Crisis

Tunisia failed to make a real difference in the Libyan file, despite its neutrality and the respect of various parties for it, and their conviction that it has no agendas in Libya other than ending the conflict. The approach of former Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi to seek a Tunisian-Algerian-Egyptian solution failed due to Egypt's direct involvement in the Libyan conflict and its known support for retired Lieutenant General Khalifa Haftar. In light of this situation, the same questions were raised about the Tunisian approach to the Libyan solution with the new administration resulting from the recent presidential elections. An approach was developed to resolve the Libyan crisis, given the crisis's direct

impact on the situation in Tunisia and its serious repercussions on stability throughout the region. The Tunisian approach to resolving the Libyan crisis was built on a set of points:

- Constants of the Tunisian position on the Libyan issue based on international legitimacy to find a comprehensive political settlement that serves the interests of the Libyan people, preserves their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and restores security and stability to this country.
- The solution must emanate from the will of the Libyans themselves, far from any pressures and with a purely Libyan will (Tlili, 2020).
- The call for a civil state built on a culture of civil peace and peaceful coexistence among components, the rule of law, and true citizenship, and confronting all attempts to prolong the crisis by those prominent in the public scene to preserve their privileges and illegitimate gains, and to entrench a culture of peaceful transfer of power (Transparency and Good Governance Observatory, 2020).
- Calling on all Libyans to sit at the dialogue table with the aim of reaching a consensus formula to emerge from the current crisis within the framework of the internal political agreement and respect for international legitimacy, and moving from it to Libyan legitimacy based on popular legitimacy.
- The solution in Libya can only be Libyan-Libyan, without excluding or marginalising any party, regardless of its political or intellectual affiliations or the region it belongs to, under the roof of a civil system in a unified Libyan state (Wannas, 2020).

It appears from the Tunisian approach that it is based in its construction on international legitimacy as a basis for resolving the Libyan crisis, and thus adopting the path of international and regional cooperation to limit the repercussions of this crisis on Libya's neighbouring states.

4.3 Opportunities for the Effectiveness of Security Cooperation among the Maghreb Neighbouring States in Confronting the Threats of the Libyan Crisis

The regional area witnessed a set of initiatives by Libya's neighbouring states to confront the security threats resulting from the crisis in Libya. These initiatives were characterised by multiplicity as a result of the neighbouring states' realisation of the necessity of regional cooperation to safeguard their national security. This allowed for the emergence of several cooperation frameworks as a reaction to the exacerbation of the Libyan crisis and its direct impact on neighbouring states. These can be enumerated as follows:

4.3.1 The Algeria-Tunisia-Libya Agreement for Border Protection

Cross-border cooperation, whether bilateral or collective, regional or sub-regional, is the greatest driver for achieving security (Dekhan & Eidoun, 2016, p. 177) and confronting the various security threats that could destabilise security and stability in a given regional area. As a result of the deterioration of security conditions in Libya, neighbouring states have devoted themselves to cooperation among themselves to confront the various security threats to them that threaten their border security.

Accordingly, the heads of government of Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya held a meeting on 12 January 2013 in the Libyan city of Ghadames to discuss security conditions on the borders between the three states. The agreement aimed to enhance cooperation by intensifying security capabilities and procedures among the three states and activating security cooperation among them through holding periodic meetings to follow up on progress and discuss political and security issues of the three states (Saghir, 2018, p. 282).

In addition to the necessity of coordination among the three states—Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya—to combat religious extremism and terrorism, the three heads of government did not rule out using the force of law to achieve what they called "security and reassurance for the region's population." The meeting addressed security risks in the entire region, especially the control of armed groups over a large quantity of Libyan weapons (Eidoun, 2015, p. 160).

This summit concluded with the development of a security coordination strategy including the following:

- Building a shared information system for border monitoring and security cooperation.
- Establishing joint committees for information exchange among the governments of the three countries—Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya.
- Activating the role of civil society in consolidating relations among the peoples of the three states, especially in border areas (Saidi, 2017, p. 55).
- Developing a medium- and long-term strategy for dealing with any direct or indirect threat to the security of these states (Dekhan & Eidoun, 2016, p. 183).

4.3.2 The Regional Neighbourhood Mechanism for Resolving the Libyan Crisis

On the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement summit held in 2012, Algeria and Egypt agreed to launch a mechanism to activate the role of neighbouring states, with the aim of preserving the Libyan state and preventing its collapse. This began with a meeting on the sidelines of the African Union summit in Guinea in 2014 (Saghir, 2018, p. 282).

The second meeting was held in the Tunisian city of Hammamet, where the Foreign Ministers of Libya's neighbours—Tunisia, Algeria, Chad, Niger, and Sudan—and a representative of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs agreed to support Libyans in reaching consensus among themselves without compromising Libya's sovereignty, in addition to supporting stability therein and building a strong state that provides security for its citizens in light of the security instability resulting from the spread of weapons, along with the terrorist danger and the emergence of extremist groups seeking to impose their ideology through violence and intimidation. This represents a source of threat to all neighbouring states. The meeting also sought to provide the necessary mechanisms for interaction with the Libyan crisis in an effort to reduce the level of Libyan threats to neighbouring states and to attempt to outline the features of a Libyan political process to be supported regionally. It was decided to form two working groups: one security-related, with Algeria coordinating its work, and the other political, with Egypt coordinating its work (Tunis Afrique Presse, 2020).

The third meeting of the Regional Neighbourhood Mechanism was held on 25 August 2014 in the Egyptian capital Cairo (Saghir, 2018, p. 283). There, the Egyptian-Algerian initiative to resolve the Libyan crisis crystallised through the relinquishment by all militias and armed elements, according to a gradual, phased, and simultaneous approach, of weapons and the military option within the framework of a political agreement among all parties that renounce violence, and according to an independent mechanism operating under regional auspices from neighbouring states and international support. This included combating terrorism in all its forms and drying up its sources of funding, combating cross-border organised crime and other illicit activities, in addition to enhancing the initiatives undertaken by neighbouring states based on respect for Libya's unity and sovereignty and the integrity of its territory, non-interference in Libya's internal affairs, preserving its political independence, commitment to

comprehensive dialogue, renunciation of violence, supporting the political process, and reaching a cessation of all acts of violence and terrorism in Libya. It also aimed to enable the Libyan state to restore and extend its authority and sovereignty over all Libyan territory, including the right to bear arms, by stopping the activity of armed groups and confronting terrorism and violence, through whatever measures this may require, in addition to supporting legitimate institutions and the central authority of the state (Al-Hamdi, 2014).

In addition to all the above, a consultative coordination meeting was held within the framework of the Libyan Regional Neighbourhood Mechanism among the Foreign Ministers of Libya's neighbours on 23 January 2020 in Algiers to discuss developments in Libya and their repercussions on neighbouring states. The meeting addressed ways and means to provide support to Libya to overcome this sensitive and critical phase it is going through. Libya's neighbouring states expressed their aspiration that Libyans would find a peaceful settlement for their country's crisis, far from any military solutions or foreign interventions, including mercenaries and militias, enabling them to organise transparent elections that achieve the aspirations of the Libyan people and preserve Libya's independence, unity, and sovereignty over all its territory. The Foreign Ministers emphasised their categorical rejection of terrorism and violence in whatever form and from whatever source, and called on Libyans to return to the political track within the framework of the Libyan Political Agreement. During this meeting, emphasis was placed on the importance that neighbouring states attach to securing their borders with Libya and the necessity of coordination and cooperation to confront all risks threatening the security and stability of Libya and all the region's states in general, and Libya's neighbouring states in particular (Algeria Press Service, 2020).

If this diplomatic and military movement regarding the Libyan crisis indicates anything, it indicates the gravity of what the Maghreb states feel regarding their security exposure, which emerged after the disintegration of the Libyan state and Libya's transformation into merely a region without a controlling authority. Although some Maghreb countries expressed their concerns from the beginning of the crisis and before the fall of the central authority and presented their vision to the world, all force was directed towards a single goal, represented in the insistence on overthrowing the regime of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. All these concerns did not deter foreign intervention from continuing its objective until it was achieved, then leaving the matter to become a regional—particularly Maghreb—neighbourhood affair, despite the fact that these states do not possess an effective cooperative path in economic and political fields to serve as a solid foundation for the security cooperation capable of confronting the crisis's repercussions. This is among the greatest challenges to the path of this approach/these approaches, as they did not take into account the theses of functionalism in this regard, whereby regional economic cooperation has the capacity to produce regional security policy.

Accordingly, the Maghreb approach/approaches appear hostage to these states' ability to influence the course of the settlement—whether peaceful or military—of the crisis, and the extent of the political and cultural weight they leave on the parties to the crisis. In other words, achieving a sense of security and eliminating the feeling of threat emanating from Libya requires a political path in which the Maghreb countries invest their weight and impose it not only on the parties but also on their international backers. This is because each of their securities is to a great extent contingent upon Libya's security, and Libya's security lies in the final settlement and the return of an authority capable of extending control, not only over oil sources as marketed in expedient settlements, but over the entire Libyan territory.

5. Conclusion

In light of the complex conditions experienced by the security environment in North Africa in both its Maghreb and Sahel regions, the urgent need for cooperation in the security field has emerged to confront the various escalating and cross-border security challenges at the regional level. As a result of states' inability to deal with security threats individually, it has become necessary for states of the same region to cooperate and coordinate among themselves to respond to imposed security challenges through shared principles and objectives, in order to enhance regional security and achieve stability in the Maghreb region—a region suffering from the spillover of internal and neighbouring crises.

Consequently, the Maghreb countries sought to direct an appropriate response to the various cross-border security threats in general and those emanating from Libya in particular, through two common approaches in cooperation paths, focused on shared positions and collective action. This was evident through the set of arrangements established and adopted by Libya's neighbouring states to limit the security threats exported to them from the Libyan territory as a result of the new conditions arising from the events that the Arab region in general witnessed, and the destructive war that took place in this region.

Within the framework of the so-called Arab Spring revolutions, which produced a set of challenges, most notably the Libyan crisis, and the consequent foreign intervention that further fuelled the civil war and brought with it threats to Libya's neighbouring states as a result of the security chaos that increased the spread of weapons and the exploitation of terrorist organisations. This prompted Libya's neighbouring states to develop a set of perceptions to adopt joint strategies to reduce the seriousness of the Libyan security threats directed at them and to contain the danger emanating from them, which might threaten the vital interests of these states, as well as their national security and the destabilisation of regional security.

For the effectiveness of their security approach to the Libyan crisis, the Maghreb countries must create a foundation for regional economic cooperation in which gains are distributed. This must come before seeking to distribute the gains of security cooperation, because the latter requires this material foundation and depends on it to finance its procedures.

At the present time, the weight of the Maghreb countries in the Libyan crisis is fragile and does not command the ability to influence. If security requires the absence of armed manifestations in Libya, this seems unattainable in the short and medium term. Accordingly, the Maghreb countries remain suffering from the Libyan crisis at their geographical borders, not from within Libyan territory. These are data that increase the pursuit of security through purely military means, which further strains Maghreb economies, particularly in providing funding for potential military operations on the borders.

Among the greatest challenges facing the Maghreb approach/approaches are the interventions of foreign backers and their financial and media pumping alongside the parties to the conflict, compared with the fragile influence of the Maghreb countries. This increases the importance of enhancing cooperation through shared positions and collective action.

In addition, it is necessary to limit foreign interventions in the Libyan crisis, which could have negative effects on Libya in particular and the regional area in general. This has prompted Libya's neighbouring states to engage in regional security cooperation to seek the necessary political solutions away from any external security arrangements. This places them before confronting these security threats and pressuring for the protection of their security and confronting them by taking a set of joint security measures, consisting mainly of increasing levels of border security for these states against the various security threats emanating from the Libyan state, especially as they have become cross-border and

relational in character. This is evident in the spread of the phenomenon of terrorism, such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and its interaction with organised crime organisations and traffickers in humans, drugs, and weapons, in addition to the repercussions of illegal immigration from regions experiencing security chaos on states' internal security. This has prompted Libya's neighbouring states to activate their diplomatic activities to coordinate and intensify efforts among themselves to contain and more easily control the Libyan security threats.

Finally, Libya's neighbouring states must adopt a strategy based on the principle that stable regional security must necessarily be linked to stability in the threat region, according to the visions of the regional states surrounding Libya that are affected by the repercussions of the security threats arising from the Libyan crisis. This should be done without accepting foreign interventions that would increase the severity and exacerbation of the crisis in Libya, which would negatively affect the security and stability of these states. Therefore, Libya's neighbouring states must deepen cooperation among themselves and attempt to contain security threats, rejecting the settlement of the Libyan crisis according to the visions and interests of foreign powers in the region without reference to these states.

Declarations

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Ethical Approval: The study was conducted in accordance with applicable ethical principles.

Informed Consent: Informed consent was obtained from all participants.

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AI Use Disclosure: The authors declare that no generative AI was used in the research or preparation of the manuscript.

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