

The Algerian Mediation Role in Resolving International Disputes

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Abstract:

When providing case studies of countries focusing on successful mediation, it may be pointed out that Algeria has successfully conducted mediations leading to the resolution of important conflicts in the past few decades. Main case studies have been made about Algeria's mediations in the Great Lakes region and about the Mali crisis, but we should not forget some other mediations where Algeria played a significant role in the resolution of a conflict opposition. Actually, the two concrete cases summarised in the present section deal with crises that took place in Africa and Asia. These case studies all share some elements that could be understood as weaknesses for the implementation of any mediation between the parties.

Keywords: Mediation; diplomacy; international conflicts; peace and security; African Sahel.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Algeria is involved in mediating conflicts in Libya, Mali, Western Sahara, and especially in the tense political and conflictual environment of the Maghreb and Sahel regions. The Algerian experience thus sheds light on the potential, but also some of the limitations and challenges of mediation or peace-building when pursued by regional powers. This paper reviews Algeria's contributions to conflict-resolution activities, which are embedded in a general foreign policy, regime interests, and sometimes influenced by rivalry between the main historical forces and elite leaders in the country. It demonstrates the ability to empirically map out specific foreign policy outputs and mechanisms of action. This essay examines the Algerian strategy toward mediation in four dimensions: the nature and objectives of Algerian policy toward mediation, the preconditions and factors that explain Algerian engagement in mediation, Algerian impacts on negotiations and peace accords, and its post-conflict peace-building policy. The four dimensions of study help us understand "why" and "how" the Algerian foreign policy elite are engaged and where it intends to lead this country politically and strategically. The field of inquiry covered is also necessary to help us understand the underlying dynamics and mechanisms of the Algerian policy toward peace-making in the North African region.

1. Historical Overview

1.1. Background of Algeria

Algerian diplomacy remains inextricably linked to its nature as an independent state. The vast North African nation has long been a subject of great interest to numerous regional and global players, a position that is not unfamiliar for the Algerian people and their leadership to this day. France had maintained a longstanding and punitive colonial relationship with the nation, one that infamously resisted resolution until an armistice was achieved after eight long years of war, suffering, and displacement. The bitter

and armed struggle for independence between the two countries dramatically directed the current scope of Algerian diplomacy and national behavior¹.

Similar to the complex interplay between the Algerian foreign minister, the ruling party, and prominent Algerian rebel leaders, Algerian diplomacy also falls under the backdrop of its socio-political, cultural, and historical heritage that has been shaped both by its steep and impressive Sahara heritage and its many Arab-Berber influences. These important underpinnings of Algeria come with a rich cultural history that places the modern state at the heart of a new kind of intercultural diplomacy often groundbreaking for the African Union as well as global political, cultural, and economic interests. Within Africa, Algeria has been an important partner of the African Union and the Arab League and has played a rollback role against the surge of jihadist movements. At 2.38 million square kilometers, it is both the largest Arab and African country and offers important pathways into Morocco, Mauritania, Western Sahara, Libya, Spain, and the Western Mediterranean².

1.2. Definition and Types of International Disputes

An international dispute is a disagreement or argument between two or more countries or organizations. Such conflicts or disputes are many and diverse, varying in relation to their subject, certain elements of relations between them, the participants, content, and nature. One of the oldest types of international disputes, for example, is territorial ones, mainly over land borders. Political disputes are often due to foreign policy differences or internal political problems³.

International disputes can be classified according to various criteria, the most important of which are unspoken disputes or multilateral disputes. As a result, a multilateral dispute is a kind of dispute that arises when disputes occur between two groups of two or more states and constitute the basis for a settlement. Under international law, in the case of a multilateral dispute, the law regards only a few parties to the dispute as parties to the dispute, without any interference or direct donation from a third party. If a state party resists the court, the subject of the dispute is decided in the absence of a state party. Conversely, countries involved in disputes generally resort to non-diplomatic options such as mediation, negotiation, and international arbitration. It is also

settled domestically. If the dispute involves two or more states, it may also take the form of an international dispute, through negotiation, mediation, or even international adjudication. Also, a series of international mechanisms for collective security, such as the United Nations, is available. In large organizations like the United Nations, relief measures are available, such as the use of force, diplomacy, or the Security Council to protect the parties concerned and settle disputes⁴.

2. Historical Background of Algeria's Diplomatic Role

Algeria has a rich heritage of diplomatic endeavors. Since regaining independence, Algeria has been involved in a number of diplomatic disputes and power struggles, including those during decolonialism and postcolonialism. The promotion of an independent and multipolar world is one of the guiding tenets of Algeria's foreign policy. Commandments for peaceful coexistence and universal learning can be found in the National Charter of November 1st, 1954, the Declaration of the National Liberation Front, and the Algiers Accords. Algeria's commitment to active neutrality as part of the movement of 'non-aligned' nations is a further indicator of the country's solid postcolonial objectives. The Algerian revolution set a precedent in 1962 for a conflict-specific negotiating approach, which offered a detailed outline of the roadmap to the colonial state⁵.

Algeria's foreign policy commitment to supporting liberation movements and the 'right of peoples to self-determination' has been a transformative factor in its decision to mediate international disputes. Algeria also sought to participate in the international anti-apartheid debate by hosting events like the first global meeting on sanctions. The political, military, and ethical elements of history, especially during the colonial era, have provided valuable input for diplomatic features and preconditions. In terms of its 'diplomatic action' and motivation, Algeria has played a role in several well-documented conflicts as a mediator. On an international scale, Algeria, with its three state functions in Africa, has broadened its 'case' base by acting well as a mediator. The historiographical finding identifies the French and Soviet connections as having the most influence⁶.

2.1. Algeria's Diplomatic History

Since its independence as a sovereign state after 132 years of colonialism in 1962, Algeria emerged as a dynamic player in international relations and world diplomacy. Thus, the diplomatic actions of Algeria are to be seen in light of the historical and policy orientation of Algerian foreign policy. Throughout the years, Algeria played active roles in various international organizations at the continental and international level. It was Algeria that assumed the leadership of international public opinion for the support of the self-determination movement. Hence, the scope of Algerian diplomacy occasionally changed in the different epochs of this evolution in Algerian foreign policy. Such evolution took, indeed, many shapes and translated into various diplomatic operations that eventually became the tangible signs of Algeria's attachment to peace and stability. Following the Bandung Conference and the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement, Algeria became committed to representing the African and other underdeveloped societies in the international and regional enunciative and opinion-forming fora⁷.

Algeria strongly stood and kept, during the sixties and the seventies, support and assistance to the liberation movements of Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Palestine through political, military, diplomatic, and humanitarian assistance, therefore earning international respect and confidence as a major supporter of the decolonization movement and the birth of the new world non-aligned order based on equality and rights of nations, vis-à-vis the colonial and occupying powers. Maintaining a sense of neutrality towards the two opposing powers, Algeria pursued its foreign policy by promoting the increase in national income from the oil and gas sector, which enabled a radical shift in economic and social programs that contributed to relative stability. Hence, under President Houari Boumediene in 1971, Algeria showcased itself as the voice of the Afro-Asian and Latin American countries to endorse the NAM's condemnation of all forms of colonialism and imperialism. The speech delivered by President Boumediene in that instance became a classic African speech, endorsing the support of the movement to the national liberation movements around the world⁸.

2.2. Previous Mediation Efforts

One of the Algerian virtues is its dedication to mediate in various world and African conflicts. This dedication has raised the international status of these exceptional efforts. Notable cases include: The mediation in the Chad-Libyan conflict started in November 1978 and was accomplished in October 1987. Another notable case is the negotiation process in Western Sahara, which started in June 1975 and was accomplished in 1990, both parties signed an agreement in Marrakech with respect to the Organization of African Unity in 1991. The Algerian mediation can be one of the oldest of its kind. The mediation strategy in Algeria is based on the respect for the sovereignty of the countries, the acceptance of international principles, the United Nations resolutions, and the respect for the Moroccan, Mauritanian, and Sahrawi borders. The Algerian involvement in the Chadian conflict is attributed to several considerations, including the necessity of preserving Chad's unity and territorial integrity, the importance of preventing further escalation in the wider region, the territorial disputes between Algeria and Libya in al-Ghat, ending the stationing of Chadian armed groups east of the 15th parallel, and Algeria's commitments within the framework of the Organization of African Unity. The conclusion of the ensuing agreement on February 6, 1988, is currently accepted as the terminus of the war⁹.

Another area where Algeria has displayed serious interest in maintaining peace and has made attempts to mediate between some disputing African parties is the Central African Republic. In this respect, President Bouteflika participated in the Bangui Summit, a follow-up session of the Inter-African mediation, in which he made a proposal to President Patasse and his opposition parties. He also offered to send a technical and security mission to the Central African Republic. In addition, in January 1998, under instructions from President Bouteflika, Mr. Tayeb Ali el-Hadrami, representative of the Algerian president, participated in a meeting regarding the Lord's Resistance Army between the governments of Uganda, Sudan, and the rebels in order to achieve peace. It should be noted that on September 1, 2003, the Algerian forces participated in the peace mission that had been sent

to Darfur. Based on that and considering these two cases, the paper argued that the mediation attempt for the peace process and for a durable political settlement of international conflicts is exercised by international moral principles, the OAU, and the UNO Charter, and it respects the sovereignty of the country. Therefore, it accepted by the parties in dispute. The Madrid arbitration argument was considered. This is the fundamental object of conflict resolution¹⁰.

3. Algeria's Mediation Principles

Neutrality and impartiality are two guiding principles around which diplomacy, especially mediation, is conducted. As a neutral party, a mediator is able to engage opposing parties in a conflict in absolute uncertainty and secrecy. This principle directly influences Algerian diplomacy, which relies on dialogue and quiet diplomacy. Algeria considers these two principles to offer itself international credibility in disputed conflicts. Due to this, conflicting parties have an unparalleled degree of trust in Algerian mediators' influence. Impartiality, as opposed to neutrality, involves the ability of a mediator to take sides in a conflict should the situation require it. However, Algeria maintains that impartiality should not entail denouncing the legitimacy of recognized institutions. The principled position of Algerian diplomacy as a third party fundamentally intervenes in the level of international credibility of the mediator or witness¹¹.

In fact, the three principles criticized or adopted by Algeria equally disclose the philosophical, ethical, and pragmatic foundations on which today's Algerian diplomacy positions itself in conflict resolution. They do not constitute a posture of international relations chosen by another. These principles are inevitably related to the Algerian context and political thought, whether it is in respect of the people's self-determination, the fight against colonization, the defense of human dignity, or simply the support of the sovereign project. Consequently, the neutrality and the third-party principle state that all disputing parties adhere to the peaceful settlement of the conflict, to the establishment of law and good international customs, and therefore only the dispute remains. This solution is achieved through negotiation, mediation, and conciliation. Algeria's involvement in the FLN disputes

during Colonel Gaddafi's ruling period did not contradict these rules, because both parties recognized Algeria as an independent country. Her neutrality was such that she did not proscribe the activities of the FLN in its territories, nor the extradition of the partisans who were under Algerian jurisdiction¹².

3.1. Neutrality and Impartiality

Neutrality and impartiality are two indivisible dimensions of the same principle. Neutrality means taking no position and assuming no membership in any alliance, action, or bloc. Impartiality refers to the function of a trustworthy mediator, serving as an interface for the impartial exchange of facts and arguments. Neutrality may even expand to dissociate oneself from incumbent or multi-polarity generated sources of instability. Impartiality, in turn, can breach stalemate between or within conflicting parties. The uncoupling of the humanitarian from the political in their conflicting escalation can hardly be managed except by actors who practice a mix of impartiality and humanitarian neutrality based on humanitarian non-partisanship. Neutrality also lies at the heart of Algeria's vision of early warning systems and preventive and developmental diplomacy¹³.

Over the past half century, riddled with regional, African, and nuclear confrontations, in apartheid, Cold War opposition, and decolonization since the 1960s, Algeria has chaired, mediated, or facilitated resolutions of disputes in both Asia and Africa, including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Western Sahara. In doing so, Algeria has been following "an Algerian way" informed by its recent historical experience of national and international struggle and its heritage of a topographic policy. Algeria availed itself of its neutral position to provide a forum for the opposing parties in the Cold War and in Southern Africa when all means of international pressure resulted in stalemate. It compelled the parties to exercise a political will to talk to each other regardless of ultimate results. Being neutral is, however, never enough and never a sufficient condition for the success of mediation and negotiation in any conflict. This is a lesson that may escape some external powers so eager to facilitate dialogue to serve their one-sided interests¹⁴.

3.2. Respect for Sovereignty and Self-Determination

The preceding subsection emphasized the weight of customary international law in shaping synergistic approaches to conflict resolution. To that end, reality further necessitates a historical illustration of the application of these principles in post-independence mediations. Indeed, some principles of conflict resolution consensus of customary international law reinforce respect for specifics of national sovereignty and self-determination, and do not traverse international laws and policies within and/or intersecting in states. Together, these reciprocity principles underpin highly unique mediation strategies with states currently in internal and/or external conflicts¹⁵.

As a result, respect for the national sovereignty of negotiating states becomes pertinent to all negotiations pertaining to the regulation of social coexistence to provide solutions based on equitable and consensual methodologies. Various provisions of international law, thus, confine states in their *modus operandi* pertaining to conflict resolution. For instance, claims or conditions pertaining to social justice are hardly worth the paper they are written on when independence and sovereignty are not respected. Based on these assertions, values pertaining to sovereignty and territorial continuity are placed above those of other principles, making them the point or context of departures¹⁶.

The model of sponsored case studies, which is a unique interplay between custom-based international law and international political dynamics, is: (1) the peace agreement mediated between the Government of Mali and Palo, signed in Algeria, culminated in peace in 1996 and not an onion restatement of the Palo problem; and (2) the proposed mediation by the head of state of Mali and his Algerian counterpart, with a view to finding an amicable solution to the disputes between the Government and the PQ leaders, which, if successful, would prove the overwhelming influence of the native country and historical brotherliness. The disputes under consideration are clearly an internal matter of a sovereign state of Mali, but arguments are that Africa's problems, in current trends, are seen from this standpoint¹⁷.

4. Key Mediation Cases

The key mediation cases highlight the most significant events in the Algerian international mediation efforts. They illustrate the type of conflicts and tensions where Algeria has been able to play a conspicuous, generally constructive, and positive role. The Western Sahara conflict has been a longstanding question mixing the political and territorial dimensions, low-intensity warfare, and diplomacy. It is a technically international conflict that has not been frozen but has been mismanaged by the international community. Since 1969, Algeria has involved in this conflict until 1988 when a ceasefire was established and a process of negotiation was initiated. Since that time, Algeria has widely relayed the Polisario Front perspective on the conflict as a political decolonization question based on the referendum principle, following the commitment of the two parties in 1997 to that effect. In that role, Algeria was an intermediary through which the parties filtered their remarks, positions, and proposals¹⁸.

The Mali conflict is an intra-state one with multiple dimensions. It is characterized by terrorism, narco-terrorism, intra- and inter-community conflicts, and election-related tensions. In January 2013, Algeria decided to initiate an inclusive political-diplomatic approach favoring an all-encompassing negotiation of the Malian crisis by setting up an international mediation team, of which it became the accelerator, along with the non-regional mediators, successful talks were led for the cessation of hostilities under the Algiers Accords of 2015. In that mediation, Algeria deployed some new strategic measures to drive the crisis resolution, including getting involved in direct negotiations with the groups without using their leadership's requirements, working on the nuances of the disparate values for resolution within a group, creating an entourage with the less reluctant part of the group, identifying the moral substance of those reluctant, thus trying to alleviate anxiety and a sense of disgust, looking cautiously and fearfully in the direction of the root cause instead of the consequences of the pain affected to create motivation force exerted on the other party for a solution, making sure to build a decisive force propelling the other party into a peace

negotiation plan or process, thus piloting the crisis resolution dynamic and plan from the encounter to the solution grid¹⁹.

4.1. Western Sahara Conflict

Western Sahara is a protracted territorial dispute between Morocco and the Frente Polisario involving Spain, France, Mauritania, and neighboring Algeria as part of the conflict's background. In the wake of Spanish decolonization of the Western Sahara Territory in 1975, the International Court of Justice observed that the Sahrawi population had preserved their status as nationals of Spain before the transfer of sovereignty to a third party - i.e. Morocco and Mauritania. Beyond this, the Court concluded, the historical backgrounds and the material information concerning non-colonial international law render it impossible to say that the Western Sahara has legal or de facto entitlement to being treated as an incorporated part of Morocco²⁰.

Indeed, the decision drew an independent Western Sahara delineated by colonial boundaries that have likewise been popular commendable features of imperative criticism of arbitral systems with respect to natives' identities vis-à-vis polyphony in the newly crafted basics of international law, around that time. By early 1976, most of the territory had been annexed by Morocco, with a section of the territory's border erected by the Moroccan military and informally declared to be a "Liberated Territory." Subsequent to the eruption of sporadic guerrilla warfare in the territory by the national organization of the Western Sahara, a constitutionally structured Sahara Arab Democratic Republic was declared by the Polisario following the disintegration of Spanish colonial rule. When Mauritania tried to follow much of the tenets vis-à-vis guerrilla warfare to no avail by invading the southern part of the territory, Mauritania was ejected by Polisario²¹.

4.2. Mali Conflict

The origins of the crisis in Mali date back more than six decades. Colonial grievances and ethnic rivalries between the Kel Antessar-Tuareg and the Songhay communities have been compounded by problems associated with drought, food scarcity, smuggling, and divisive politics in Bamako. As a mediator, Algeria has been actively reaching out to the

conflicting parties. It has invited the representatives of the MNLA to hold discussions. Also, Algeria's unilateral move, in which it made a proposal to the Malian government to initiate broad discussions and negotiations with northern Azawad groups, is in itself an acknowledgment of the failures of various mediation efforts undertaken by other countries. The Algiers Accord has its advantages when compared to the AU-initiated lingua franca of the peace and security roadmap, if for no other reason than it confirms Algeria's efforts in the process. In fact, the transcript of the Algiers Accord does witness the discussions between a Malian delegation and representatives of the MNLA²².

Reaching out to the conflicting parties, undertaking discussions and negotiations, and integrating the surrounding peoples are all a good starting point. In the absence of trust and political steadiness, only time will tell whether this initiative can help to find the ideal political solution to the Malian crisis. However, as a result of the situation neighboring Algeria and the eventual repercussions that could be faced, Algeria has always remained apprehensive. Algiers has embraced a bilateral military accord with Mali but is unlikely to entertain the idea of dispatching its troops to participate in military action against radicals²³.

5. Challenges and Limitations

The harassment and rivalry of regional forces and the weakness of a number of states and their marginalization affected Algeria in the mediatory approach, which had its impact on peace and security in the region. Several countries and some observers suggested that the multipolar world and regional groupings have reduced Algeria's greatness and the ability to carry out foreign policy with the same values and goals adopted during the era of the Western bloc, and the policy of rapprochement put Algeria in critical situations and with other parties to various disputes. Despite the possibility that Algeria will manage its relations merely from a political point of view, it is noted that certain groups and individuals have been affected by the prevailing ideas of the balance of power and alliance with this party. Algeria plays the role of supporter in the efforts of some countries to calm down the

regional situation, as seen in its participation in two tripartite meetings to bring aid to Iraq, in addition to its participation in the aid provided to Palestinian groups, first in Mecca, then in Cairo and Riyadh. In the Middle East, it seeks to establish a bloc of moderates, and this build came to contain the Algerian diplomatic move in the regional and international scene. At the level of the international context, the extent to which Algeria can play its peace role in the world depends on many variables, the most important of which are the level of relations it establishes with the international and regional order, and the strength and effectiveness of its support policies and decisions in the struggle for freedom²⁴.

- Political Instability in the Region

The current turmoil in neighboring countries poses challenges for Algeria's diplomatic initiatives and strategies. It seems that the question of regional conflicts will continue to shape Algerian foreign policy in the years to come. Specifically, regional security threats may have an effect on the evolution of Algerian foreign policy. However, it is not always the case that the regional factors have a major effect on Algeria's role in conflict resolution. Though there have been some economic and social issues, these have not had a major effect on the Algerian ability to pursue a mediation option²⁵.

In general, the internal political dynamics of Algeria can play a role in the Algerian ability or inability to facilitate mediation. The nature of the Arab uprisings was said to have an impact on the Algerian mediation efforts. President Bouteflika had to put greater emphasis on ensuring that the country would not have the same fate as Tunisia and Egypt. The Algerian position on Syria put it in direct opposition to its main political and military ally. The fact, however, that the Syrian conflict has imposed an unprecedented analogous dynamic on the region's politics is beyond doubt. It is the first time in its modern history that a neighboring Arab country posed such a direct threat to Algeria's chosen model of governance. The Algerian response to this challenge allows a detailed exploration of how regional dynamics can shape mediation politics²⁶.

6. Future Prospects

Over the last two decades, Algeria has involved itself in various inter-state and intra-state disputes and was able, in some cases, to assist in resolving such conflicts. In many claims, Algerian diplomacy was able to neutralize an escalation of different militant actions elsewhere in Africa and the Arab world; such good results confirm the improvement in international credibility and the increasing respect other countries maintain towards Algeria. Based on this appraisal, we can say that this effort was rewarded at the international level and gave Algeria the opportunity to become acquainted with the African and Arab diplomatic circles in a better position than the previous era. There are a number of future prospects and more guidance that can enhance Algeria's conflict resolution role. First, a number of changes are taking place in the current world order, and the strategic and economic repositioning of some countries neighboring Algeria automatically requires a more consolidated diplomatic action on this part. It is therefore advisable to abandon the Algerian isolationist policy in favor of new horizons to better secure the security needs of the country. In the headlands of these changes and the fact that local players and other international actors will tend to align, more than ever, the time is coming for Algeria to align its role as an industrial matrix within the hydrocarbon-producing countries, which are becoming increasingly pessimistic. This is in order to diversify the opportunities for added value of similar resources along the value chain and thus compensate for any profit-sharing orientation in a global economy plagued by various contortions. Otherwise, the gradual withdrawal, if not freezing, of the forces responsible for the order along the southern border requires consolidating the role in resolving the emerging regional conflicts and avoiding any imbalance that might harm the region's collective interest²⁷.

- **Opportunities for Enhanced Mediation Efforts**

The analysis in the previous chapter has provided some insight into the external international conditions and trends which give Algeria a comparative advantage in the field of formal and informal mediation between

conflicting parties in the international community. It is also no less important to carry out a forward-looking analysis in terms of prospects and emerging opportunities that could make Algeria a formidable actor in the field of mediation. Algeria will be placed in context through its growing external ties to gain access to other countries linked by economic, social and political relationships that extend to the level of governments or international organizations, directly or indirectly. One avenue of opportunity lies in the potential for alliances, conventions and related meetings with other countries that are also experiencing similar mechanisms for allaying and resolving crises and disputes politically. In addition to established countries, Algeria could sign such cooperation agreements in order to gain access to convergent experiences and best practices in this field with emerging powers and regional economic poles that are increasingly the center of global interest. Equally, such partnerships will enable us to better understand the capacity-building of well-trained and skilled human resources for mediation²⁸.

Given the capacity of the Algerian human resource in diplomacy and its relations, the capabilities demonstrated to conduct such a practice could benefit as part of Executive Training Programs. In addition and on another level, the partnership between mediation initiatives would help participating countries to re-emerge in an integrated manner in view to strengthen the coherence and efficiency required for mediation and current responses. Beyond public action, mediation between conflicts also offers an opportunity to better inform relevant public service actors, including defense and security forces, on the main Intersectional fields with international humanitarian law, national human rights law and migration. Faced with the recurrent and multiple nature of traditional and emerging conflicts, the analysis provides some quantum of opportunities that engage decision makers, to build sustained efforts towards mediation diplomacy and other mechanisms which soothe and pacify the negative consequences of international and regional conflicts. Another notable opportunity lies in the advancement of technology and its adaptation to various fields of social life, including diplomacy and mechanisms for the resolution of disputes and conflicts, whether through a

direct, closed-door option or via information and communication channels that provide work in a remote format²⁹.

An urgent need exists for training programs on the African continent on new technologies, which governments increasingly use to limit internal conflicts and increase their control and intelligence against potential regional and transborder threats. This is a strategic learning from a Mediation point of view to draw on effective negotiation and conflict resolution strategies, with the support of institutional mechanisms and technological means ranging from Artificial Intelligence to georeferencing tools, as well as the implementation of practice working with open-sources in parallel cyber-diplomacy sessions. Algeria can be placed in a more or less complex position in multilateral forums. In the post-1998 era, the information provided an understanding of the Algerian geopolitics which may suggest protective inaction against spill-over effects of generalized political or socio-economic turmoil in neighboring States. The assessment of its particular situation in the region or beyond, could guide a more targeted Algerian Government's approach regarding the management of responses of possible new conflict-related scenarios addressing the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the political, socio-economic crises and conflicts of states of North Africa as well as potential coup and power plays in weak Sahel countries³⁰.

7. CONCLUSION

In discussing the vital role of Algeria in the peaceful resolution of international disputes and its contributions during the last twenty years, we will refer not only to Algeria's participation in the United Nations and in the OAU and its various specialized agencies, but also to its role as a non-aligned, Arab-African state. The main responsibilities of all states, including Algeria, in matters of peace and security are derived from the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and objectives of the OAU relating to the peaceful resolution of international disputes. Since Algeria is a signatory of the Charter and a member state of the OAU and the Non-Aligned Movement, these responsibilities are of special significance to it, especially with regard to the solution of disputes in which Algeria has a direct interest in view of

the declared policy of liberation and support for the struggle of peoples for self-determination, independence, and national sovereignty. During this period and up to the present time, Algeria has recognized the importance of various international and regional political institutions and of the OAU in particular, and has stated its commitment to the ideal of international peace and security. Algeria has reiterated its commitment to assist its Arab and African neighbors to achieve this important goal. These principles, objectives, and orientations have been translated into action both within and outside the framework of the OAU, where Algeria has aspired to the promotion of peace and the strengthening of understanding and consultation in keeping with the provisions of the OAU Charter. By examining these contributions in the context of the Algerian Arab and African primary goals, it is hope that we will make a modest contribution to the present struggle to preserve and protect peace in the world.

8. Endnotes

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