

## Determinants of Algerian foreign policy:

### Geopolitical stakes and a well-established political ideology

محددات السياسة الخارجية الجزائرية: رهانات جيوسياسية وعقيدة سياسية راسخة

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#### Abstract :

The architecture of the Algerian foreign policy expresses a geopolitical project with diplomatic, economic, cultural and security dimensions, and values character, in light of the developments in the international scene that have accompanied multiple economic and cooperative practices, enveloped by the urgent and geo-strategic character that characterizes the issues raised in many cases.

According to an approach based on interaction and influence at all levels, based on traditional principles and a new strategy according to a more proactive and dynamic vision.

**Key words:** Algerian foreign policy - diplomatic doctrine - proactive - dynamism - diplomacy of influence

#### المخلص:

تعبّر هندسة السياسة الخارجية الجزائرية عن مشروع جيوسياسي ذو أبعاد دبلوماسية، اقتصادية وأمنية، مغلفة بطابع ثقافي، هوياتي وقيمي، في ظل التطورات التي يعرفها المشهد الدولي جاءت مصاحبة لممارسات اقتصادية وتعاونية متعددة، يغلفها الطابع الإستراتيجي والجيو-استراتيجي الذي يميز القضايا المطروحة في كثير من الأحيان. وفق مقارنة مبنية على التفاعل والتأثير على جميع الأصعدة، إنطلاقاً من المبادئ التقليدية واستراتيجية جديدة وفق رؤية إستباقية أكثر حركية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: السياسة الخارجية الجزائرية- العقيدة الدبلوماسية- الاستباقية- الدينامية- دبلوماسية التأثير

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**Introduction:**

The Algerian foreign policy has witnessed momentum and dynamism, giving it a distinctive character. This comes within the framework of a rapidly changing world and a continuous process of modernization, imposed by the challenges of globalization and the requirements of international security at all levels. It reflects the state's determination to affirm and develop exceptional partnerships based on common interests, whether based on geographical proximity, close relationships rooted in shared history or civilization, or based on common strategic goals and interests. This enhances a more effective and harmonious vision of Algeria's contributions in shaping the international reality.

In the the other hand Algerian international cooperation is taking place within the context of significant developments on both the domestic and international fronts, indicating new changes and orientations in strategies and activities. This demonstrates Algeria's readiness to contribute in a greater and more integrated manner to international affairs and achieve a better balance between national goals and international interests. Algeria seeks to enhance its influence, performance, and strategic reach.

In this context, Algeria faces multiple challenges, ranging from dealing with the threat of extremist groups in the Sahel region to addressing the financial crisis and instability in Libya, which has prompted it to enhance border monitoring and control. Additionally, there has been an escalation of tension with Morocco regarding the Western Sahara issue, and the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the calculations of many countries, as well as the evolving events in the Gaza Strip due to the ongoing Israeli aggression.

At the same time, and amidst the new global challenges in the field of global energy and the food crisis, as well as the impact of climate change and global warming on water sources, illegal migration movements, and the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, decision-makers in Algeria find themselves compelled to rearrange the priorities of foreign policy and define their positions towards regional partners and major global powers. Internal factors related to domestic politics play a decisive role in shaping Algerian foreign policy and strategy, in accordance with the geopolitical circles and vital orbits of Algerian diplomacy.

This study addresses the topic of "Determinants of Algerian Foreign Policy: Geopolitical Challenges and Firm Diplomatic Doctrine" in light of the developments witnessed in the international arena, which are accompanied by various economic and cooperative practices, benefiting from the urgent and geostrategic nature that often envelops the issues at hand.

The Algerian diplomatic presence at the international level reflects a rich history and distinctive experiences, raising questions about how to leverage these experiences and benefit from them in the present time. Therefore, dealing with this strong diplomatic legacy should be done in a scientific manner that takes into account current challenges and historical specificities, enabling the country to have a confident and influential international presence in the future. The practices and past experiences can be utilized to enhance Algerian diplomatic capabilities and maximize their impact on the international stage. By adopting a scientific approach, previous experiences can be analyzed, priorities can be identified, and guiding principles that can be applied in the present time can be determined. Moreover, attention must be directed towards the future, anticipating potential shifts and challenges, in order to develop a diplomatic strategy that aligns with the requirements of the current era.

Furthermore, Algeria should strengthen international cooperation and exchange expertise with regional and international partners to enhance its capabilities and maximize its impact on global political issues. By focusing on building sustainable strategic partnerships based on shared interests and promoting sustainable development and international security, Algeria can enhance its diplomatic influence and actively contribute to shaping international decisions and achieving global peace and stability.

The study raises the question:

**How do geopolitical stakes and a well-established political ideology serve as determinants of Algerian foreign policy?**

In order to understand its political and strategic implications on the network of interactions, and to encompass its various aspects and aspirations, as well as its determinants that are reflected in the forms and shapes of external coordination, amid the continued international inequality that affects proliferation, performance, and diplomatic influence, the following question is posed: What are the geopolitical dimensions of Algerian foreign policy, and how have its determinants evolved in response to global changes?

The study's hypotheses can be defined as follows: The determinants of Algerian foreign policy are imposed by geographical and historical factors, as well as national interests, particularly in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era, the Russo-Ukrainian war, and the repercussions of the Aqsa flood in October 2023.

This hypothesis is further reinforced by a second hypothesis, which suggests that revitalizing Algerian diplomatic relations is contingent upon surpassing traditional narratives and overcoming internal challenges. It can only be achieved through understanding the foundations of new geopolitical and geo-strategic frameworks imposed by international dynamics.

Regarding the methodology employed in the study, the first approach revolves around a descriptive analysis aimed at gathering detailed and factual information about the interactions between Algeria and its international partners. It explores how these interactions intersect with areas of vital importance. This approach seeks to understand the reasons behind the continuity of these interactions by analyzing and identifying their dynamics, based on the developments characterizing relations at the Maghreb, Mediterranean, Arab, African, and international levels. This allows for clarifying the motives behind political decisions.

The study focuses on a systemic approach and employs functional approaches within the framework of the binary formula of Algerian interaction. It takes into account different environments (global, regional, and local). The overlapping of the issues within the study framework poses a challenge when discussing the appropriate methodology, such as the natural environment, the civilizational structure, and the historical foundation. Therefore, four scientific disciplines intersect as the foundations of the research, including geography, history, international relations, and political science, which analyze the reasons behind the state's actions and examine the ideas and beliefs underlying the state's behavior at the domestic and international levels. It also relies on critical geopolitical approaches to analyze how policy is spatially conceptualized and in its dynamic interactions.

Therefore, the study aims to examine the determinants of Algerian foreign policy based on its role as a regional power possessing the elements of soft power, including cultural influence and

strategic depth. This is achieved through a concerted focus on alternative forms of traditional diplomacy, utilizing security, economic, environmental, sports, humanitarian, and populist determinants. Hence, the study primarily focuses on analyzing the foreign policy of Algeria, one of the key countries in the Maghreb region, which became a member of the United Nations Security Council starting from January 2024. It is an active member of the Arab League and the African Union. Located south of the Mediterranean basin, Algeria is considered the gateway from Africa to Europe and is recognized as one of the significant Islamic countries, providing a vital arena for various international actors.

As for the timeline, and considering the structure of the subject matter, which is far from linear analysis and immediate interpretation of Algerian international interactions, the study addresses the dynamic framework of Algeria's foreign policy since 2019 and the post-COVID-19 pandemic era. This is in accordance with the program announced by President Abdelmajid Tebboune in February 2020. The study aims to interpret the nature of the relationships and interactions within which the dynamics of Algerian diplomacy operate, aiming to safeguard its interests and maintain its international and regional security, especially in light of the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict casting its shadow on energy outlets, as well as the intensive and rapid reform processes taking place in various sectors in Algeria. So This study is divided into two parts

- **The first section** presents the determinants of Algeria's current foreign policy in building the diplomatic system within the international community. Its pillars are "geo-political" in nature, through a strategy outlined by the state to control and exploit the vital space it belongs to, in competition with global powers. This is due to its unique internal and external regional, international, and transnational characteristics.

- **As for the second section**, it focuses on the new reference point that emphasizes enhancing Algeria's international presence and influence through a dynamic and proactive foreign policy. This policy aims to review the traditional objectives of Algerian foreign policy and the classical tasks of Algerian diplomacy within the framework of its bilateral and multilateral relations. It aligns with the priorities of Algerian decision-makers who seek to adapt the conduct of foreign policy to the rapid changes in the international system.

### **Section I : Determinants of contemporary Algerian foreign policy:**

The valuable and strategic assets possessed by Algeria are used as a general criterion to assess the impact of its domestic and foreign activities and policies. These data provide the necessary background to understand and appreciate its relationships within various circles, including the Maghreb, the Mediterranean, the Arab world, Africa, the international community, and the Islamic and even Amazigh civilizations. Through these assets, the nature of the interests that govern its relationships can be understood as an active player enjoying a distinguished position, which has attracted attention and competition from global powers.

The Understanding the new future vision of Algeria, based on diversifying partnerships and advocating for developmental and liberation issues that form the essence of its diplomatic doctrine, is essential in identifying the components and determinants of its current foreign policy. This policy works towards activating Algeria's role as a "regional power," rooted in honoring the commitment to the martyrs' legacy and having faith in the constitutional and revolutionary national ideology. It is further reinforced by the regional and international dynamics and its geo-strategic aspirations, including the pursuit of joining the BRICS group.

It is evident that the framework of Algerian foreign policy falls within a strong national will to update its objectives and work towards enhancing foreign relations and cooperation with other countries. It is committed to the values and principles that are constant in its local, regional, and international dimension to which it belongs. These values and principles determine its outcomes and dynamics, taking a strategic, vital, and proactive approach through diplomacy that is driven by the interests of the Algerian state and the welfare of its diaspora abroad<sup>1</sup>. This is emphasized in the preamble of the constitutional amendment of 2020. This foundation establishes:

- traditional (classic) creed that is steadfast and enduring in Algerian foreign policy.
- A changing international landscape and diplomatic ambition for leadership.

**A) A traditional (classic) creed that is steadfast and enduring in Algerian foreign policy:**

It emerges from a set of constants upon which the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria is founded, which include the emphasis on:

- **National and civilizational-ethical principles:** which are based on peaceful settlement of conflicts and support for just causes in the world. At the forefront is the Palestinian issue, which is one of the constants of Algerian foreign policy. Algeria stands alongside the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve their legitimate right to build an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and the realization of the right of return. Algeria works towards holding the international community accountable for its historical responsibility towards the Palestinian people by implementing all relevant United Nations resolutions within the framework of international legitimacy.

The Western Sahara issue is also raised as a central and constant issue in Algerian foreign policy, starting from opposition to the Madrid Tripartite Agreement (partition plan) to the recognition of the Polisario Front as the legitimate and sole representative of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, and supporting the Western Sahara issue in international forums in order to settle the colonial question.

- **Regional and geographical dimensions:** which emphasizes belonging to Arabism and Islam (the Islamic world, the Arab Maghreb, and the Arab world), and the unity of peoples in the African continent, especially in their Saharan presence in the African Sahel region.
- **Legitimacy and legality:** stemming from respect for international treaties and the adoption of the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Non-Aligned Movement, which aim for good neighborliness. This aims to establish permanent cooperation and coordination regarding issues related to stability, countering causes of tension, respecting established borders upon independence, and promoting peace among neighboring countries by overcoming the causes of conflict and enhancing fraternal relations.
- **Respect for the sovereignty, stability, and territorial integrity of states:** In this context, the stability of Libya and the preservation of its national and territorial unity come as priorities in Algerian foreign policy. Algeria works diligently to unite internal ranks and overcome differences, free from external interventions that exacerbate divisions and hinder the achievement of their goals in building a unified Libya. This is based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states and the rejection of any attempt to interfere in their internal affairs, regardless of its form or source. Additionally, Algerian diplomatic efforts highlight the application of the Peace and Reconciliation Charter in the Republic of Mali, which was signed in Algeria to assist them in overcoming

their differences and achieving stability. - Revolutionary and liberation principles: which are based on the right of peoples to self-determination. These principles stem from the Declaration of November 1st as the cornerstone of the modern Algerian state, as well as national charters since the Treaty of Tripoli and the National Charter of 1976, which defined the constitutional texts and the framework of public relations of the Algerian state. These principles were adopted and affirmed by the Algerian constitutions of 1963, 1976, 1989, 1996, and subsequent amendments until the 2020 amendment.

- **Humanitarian principles:** which arise from the respect for human rights and peaceful coexistence around the world.
- **Commitment to refrain from resorting to war as a means to intervene in the sovereignty and freedom of other peoples:** Algeria makes great efforts to settle international disputes through peaceful means. This is achieved through negotiation, dialogue, and Algeria's mediation in international conflicts. It is considered one of the countries that strive to reach peaceful solutions to conflicts based on the strength of dialogue and mutual understanding, relying on the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter. Algeria plays an active role in regional and international conflict resolution and works towards promoting peace and stability in the region and the world. In this context, Algeria diligently works to support Syria in its return to the Arab League and to reach a peaceful solution that enjoys the consensus of all parties. It also supports Yemen in overcoming the conflict and works tirelessly to find effective solutions to the crisis in Sudan in order to achieve stability in the country.

## **B) A changing international landscape and a diplomatic ambition for leadership:**

The aforementioned principles are supported by a methodological approach that emphasizes Algeria's post-black decade years in the 1990s. After the popular movement that served as a starting point for a new democratic experience and reshaped the political demands that led to a radical change in the existing system, it resulted in combating corruption and reevaluating the criteria for achieving social and political justice. This was achieved by safeguarding freedoms through the establishment of independent bodies for civil society and youth, and incorporating gradual transformations that enhance the path of democratic construction. These efforts contributed to the stability of the country and protected it from any internal turmoil, ultimately allowing it to reclaim its institutional trajectory.

Algeria has early recognized its pivotal regional role and capitalized on the global changes following the COVID-19 pandemic. It has acknowledged the importance of technological advancement, digitalization, and the intensified competition for energy outlets and vital resources worldwide. Furthermore, it has been aware of numerous attempts to seize these resources, particularly in light of the Russo-Ukrainian war outcomes and the consequences of climate change. Consequently, Algeria has been striving to join the "BRICS" group.

The current experiences are explicit attempts to highlight Algeria as a regional power. These efforts rely on new strategic tools to resume work in North Africa, aiming to enhance its presence and develop cooperative frameworks that eliminate any foreign domination and address the dilemma of "security" at various levels and contexts. Examples of these strategic convergences include the Russian-Algerian, Chinese-Algerian, and Italian-Algerian partnerships, among others, built on a diplomacy that balances security and development.

Relations between Algeria and its partners are growing remarkably, particularly in terms of regulating and defining boundaries for movement, negotiation, and frameworks of mutual cooperation. Algeria collaborates with its partners in various fields, including security, economy, culture, and politics. Algeria actively works to confront and address various sources of threats, whether they come from direct or indirect means of influence.

In the face of regional transformations and geopolitical tensions, Algeria faces competition from major powers in the North African region, such as the United States, China, Germany, and Italy. Algeria deals with this competition logically and in line with its political interests. The cautious penetration of the Zionist entity in the region is also observed, posing an additional challenge that Algeria must address.

Therefore, Algeria seeks to preserve its independence and sovereignty and works to enhance cooperation with its partners based on common interests and mutual benefits. Algeria is considered an influential regional power and plays a crucial role in promoting stability and peace in the region. In summary, Algeria works to strengthen its relationships with its partners while facing the surrounding challenges, including regional competition and geopolitical tensions. Algeria strives to maintain its sovereignty and promote cooperation based on shared interests with its partners on the international stage.

Understanding and analyzing Algerian international cooperation reveals the continuous efforts of the Algerian state to reconfigure its international relations network and expand its communication base. The goal is to transform these relationships into exchanges that create political solidarity in international forums on just issues, especially after its re-election to the United Nations Security Council. Through this role, Algeria aims to shape a new geopolitical map of regional and international balances, defining its sphere of influence in the series of conflicts that the international community deals with, and promoting pluralism to serve its major political and strategic projects.

In doing so, Algeria works on developing effective alliances and diplomatic relationships to support innovative projects that restore its international radiance and achieve its political objectives. It adopts multiple concepts that include partnership, cooperation, and integration as means to achieve its international goals in peaceful ways, making it an influential partner in resolving global and regional issues and seeking to enhance peace and stability.

This has led Algeria to purposefully develop a comprehensive diplomatic strategy that takes into account economic and strategic aspects, while considering the geopolitical dimensions that interact with its reality. The goal is to enhance Algeria's interests and increase its influence in the region. Its primary objective is to create an attractive environment that allows it to gain economic and political advantages, and to foster cooperation in various social, educational, and even military fields.

The issue involves leveraging traditional principles to achieve optimal results and capitalize on available opportunities in modern diplomatic practices, such as economic, environmental, sports, and cultural spheres. However, this poses a challenge due to the ambiguity of concepts associated with approaching and analyzing ever-changing circumstances, which are subject to fluctuations in global policies, making it difficult to understand often mysterious events.

Nevertheless, progress can be achieved by employing traditional principles in modern diplomatic practices. For example, traditional principles can be used to enhance economic cooperation and trade exchange between countries, as well as to promote investments in vital

sectors. Traditional principles can also help strengthen cultural and sports relations between nations, leading to mutual understanding and trust-building.

With the increasing global challenges and complexities of international relations, employing traditional principles in diplomatic practices can contribute to enhancing stability, understanding, and cooperation among nations. This requires flexibility and the ability to adapt to changes, as well as the development of new methodologies that blend traditional principles with modern concepts.

**Section II: A new reference framework is being established to enhance Algeria's international presence and influence through a dynamic and proactive foreign policy:**

The review of Algeria's traditional foreign policy objectives and the classic tasks of Algerian diplomacy within its bilateral and multilateral relations is aimed at adapting the behavior of foreign policy to the rapidly changing international system. This provides a new opportunity to enhance Algeria's presence as a key actor, necessitating the adoption of a proactive offensive plan that serves Algeria's national strategy. The national strategy is based on the following axes<sup>2</sup>:

- Enhancing Algeria's role as a regional power that attracts the attention of major powers, playing a consistent and historical role as confirmed by agreements and treaties. Algeria possesses comprehensive elements of power, including military, economic, and identity-based (cultural, religious, and ethnic) strengths.
- Serving national development and enhancing Algeria's international influence as an economic and investment destination.
- Promoting the welfare of the national community and expatriates abroad.
- Building friendly relations and cooperation with all countries and diversifying partners.

In light of these objectives, the outlines of foreign policy are highlighted in the fourth chapter of the Algerian government's program as an extension of the internally adopted programs. They are also aligned with the requirements of the new challenges facing the international system. This necessitates a reassessment of traditional strategies and tools of diplomacy, particularly in the Mediterranean region, which holds significant geo-political importance for international actors and is undergoing profound transformations. Finding comprehensive solutions to the issues and questions at hand goes beyond traditional approaches and requires reshaping perceptions and redefining its geopolitical trajectory.

The political will has adopted a new concept of foreign policy, describing it as active and proactive, which has allowed it to regain its vital role in international forums and restore the reputation of Algerian diplomacy. Algerian diplomacy is based on the principles of sovereignty, security, and development, which enable the preservation of security, independent decision-making, and the mobilization of foreign partnerships and cooperation in service of development. In this context, it focuses on a set of defined objectives, including:

- Defending the highest interests of the nation.
- Activating Algeria's position as a pivotal state in the region.
- Promoting peace in the world and consolidating the principle of partnership.
- Strengthening ties with the Arab world and Africa.
- Achieving peace, contributing to regional and international stability and security.
- Playing a close intermediary role in regional and international issues.
- Enhancing the role of economic diplomacy in serving the 2020-2024 economic recovery plan.

- Emphasizing diplomatic tools and managing human resources.
- Adopting a new strategy towards the national community residing abroad, promoting national belonging and attracting Algerian competencies abroad.
- Making a constant contribution to the fight against global terrorism, organized crime, cross-border crime, drugs, and all global social problems<sup>3</sup>.

This is achieved through adopting a new framework for Algerian diplomacy by adjusting and shaping the essential perceptions of the boundaries of change and the consequences of events. It has paved the way for a new foreign policy for Algeria that makes it more transparent. This is manifested by activating the diplomatic role to increase its regional presence in light of the transformations taking place in the region. One of the indicators of this is the redefinition of the geopolitical trajectory and the prioritization based on interests and objectives. This is accomplished through:

**A) Transitioning to an active and more dynamic foreign policy :**

This requires adopting unprecedented methods and new levels of international cooperation that enhance the international performance of foreign policy based on a framework that does not revolve around or favor any party at the expense of others<sup>4</sup>. It activates the utilitarian dimension of foreign policy. This is evident in the formulation and current practice of Algerian diplomacy, in light of the achievements it possesses, which are manifested in:

- Redefining and adjusting the major long-term, medium-term, and short-term objectives of foreign policy.
- Having a comprehensive awareness of the challenges and obstacles facing foreign policy.
- Reviewing diplomatic performance and thinking, and working towards playing a distinctive role capable of attracting various actors and capturing their attention to the state's strengths and capabilities, especially in the context of the international war over energy outlets and the alternatives and possibilities offered by Algeria.
- Developing tools that can reconcile conflicting interests and diverse perspectives, and providing solutions that enhance Algeria's position and increase its influence, including diplomatic, economic, and military tools of power.
- Adopting more open diplomatic traditions and practices, distributed across different regions of the world and continents with various dimensions (economic, cultural, sports, religious, and scientific knowledge).
- Working on participation in international events, memberships, and engagement in international organizations, especially in influential decision-making circles at the international level, as reflected in the emphasis on membership in the United Nations Security Council.
- Supporting the development of immediate and integrated responses to international changes and effectively adapting to them, as demonstrated by the swift intervention in Sudan to evacuate Algerian and Arab nationals.
- Enhancing innovation to address international challenges and manage risks.

- Conducting periodic reviews of the outlined objectives of foreign policy and encouraging virtuous practices and their development by adapting interaction patterns according to emerging issues, especially in their technological and cognitive aspects.

- Signing cooperation agreements in vital areas and diversifying partners, which distinguishes Algerian diplomatic efforts in the last three years<sup>5</sup>.

Enhancing strategic partnerships through formulating the directions of cognitive transformation of interactive relationship outcomes, improving their quality, and developing their tools, capabilities, and results. This allows for the exchange of expertise and the integration of efforts within a consensus framework that expands the horizons of bilateral and diplomatic relations.

- Scientific and practical understanding of the available tools and potentials, especially in the field of soft power.

- Promoting training and improving the level of diplomatic personnel in a way that enhances the utilization of modern technologies (communication and information transmission) to adjust the information/moment relationship within a dual framework of space/time, using more effective methods that ensure control over interaction outcomes, evaluation tools, and analysis.

- Employing Algerian frameworks in regional and international institutions, enabling the enhancement of presence and influence in these organizations.

- Working towards the alignment of foreign policy with the requirements and aspirations of domestic policies, making it expressive of the country's vision and developmental orientations.

Algeria's international moves reflect the beginning of a new phase in foreign policy, based on visions that seek to activate its regional role. This is manifested in the conclusion of strategic agreements that reflect a vision based on an approach of openness to various circles, including major powers, in light of the sovereignty constants that formed the basis for contributing to the crystallization of a strong and prominent presence at the regional, continental, and international levels. This enabled Algeria to avoid the impact of neighboring conflicts on the domestic front.

This is evident through the promotion of Algerian external performance and the adoption of measures that have enhanced its Maghreb, Arab, and African presence, positioning it positively outside regional conflicts in the area and seeking to create a consensus ground among conflicting parties through the approaches it pursues.

The diplomatic movement witnessed in Algeria is based on the triad of influence, impact, and international radiance of Algerian foreign policy. This is reflected in its interaction with international affairs and its expression of behavior within the tense international framework amidst the Russian-Ukrainian war and the global health crisis (COVID-19 pandemic), which has changed the behavior and patterns of interaction of international entities. This is manifested through intense diplomatic activity, which has brought about a noticeable change in the pattern of foreign policy interaction. This is evident in the intensive meetings with the Russian partner, both on a bilateral and integrative level, as well as within the framework of visits by the Arab League, which visited Algeria during the Arab Summit in November 2022, or in the Algerian-Italian rapprochement, or the Algerian-Turkish relations, characterized by reciprocal presidential visits.

Algeria's current foreign policy adopts an independent stance that enables it to break free from the imposed status quo and transition to playing a driving role in the regional and international balance of power. The severance of relations with Morocco and attempts to mitigate the escalation with it, the tension or cooling in Algerian-Spanish relations, and the ebb and flow with the French side, all make the diplomatic apparatus in continuous motion to affirm its identity and vision through open ideas built on the duality of development and renewal. This is driven by the rapid pace of international events, as Algeria seeks to maintain its role amidst opportunities that contribute to achieving its strategic goals and interests by forming spatial structures to enhance its international presence.

Therefore, the active foreign policy of Algeria is characterized by a change in the content of the official discourse and an increase in the number of agreements and the quality of decisions.

**B) Moving beyond traditional narratives and activating proactive levels (foresight, formulation, and guidance) of Algerian foreign policy:**

Foreign policy encompasses a set of methods, choices, alternatives, plans, and programs that assist decision-makers in implementing their international philosophy with flexibility and maneuverability on the international stage. It recognizes that complex interactions require an innovative blend of research and analysis based on foresight and potential scenarios, which necessitate interdisciplinary strategic thinking.

The competitive international environment, characterized by complexity, interconnectedness, and volatility, as well as escalating international positions within the context of foreign behavior, led Algerian decision-makers to adopt a "proactive"<sup>6</sup> approach in shaping foreign policy direction, as described by the government's program for the year 2020. Here, "proactivity" stands in contrast to "reactivity," where foreign policy movements, decisions, and actions are reactive responses to events occurring within its environment. Any change or action is taken after the occurrence of an event in response to external factors or unexpected events<sup>7</sup>.

In contrast, the "proactive" approach is characterized by initiative and a desire to prepare for the future by taking preventive measures for potential issues and planning for long-term decisions before any urgency or emergency arises<sup>8</sup>. This is achieved through the use of new methods capable of providing added value to decision-makers and the outcomes of foreign policy, gaining more time for interaction, and enhancing the ability to control and manage risks while minimizing their impact. The ultimate goal is to increase diplomatic opportunities by:

- Anticipating and identifying emerging challenges and trends in the international arena.
- Developing strategic partnerships and alliances to enhance influence and achieve common objectives.
- Promoting dialogue and cooperation through diplomatic initiatives.
- Engaging in proactive crisis management and conflict resolution.
- Investing in diplomacy and soft power to advance national interests.
- Strengthening institutional capacity and capabilities in foreign policy planning and implementation.

Overall, the proactive approach in Algerian foreign policy aims to shape events rather than being driven by them, with a focus on long-term planning, risk management, and seizing diplomatic opportunities by:

- Motivating and preparing the human element for potential circumstances in order to manage possible crises with greater confidence and smoother efficiency in the shortest possible time and with minimal potential damage, thereby tilting the balance in favor of the Algerian party.
- Reducing possible costs and burdens through the preparation of proactive plans that enable effective utilization of time and more efficient use of available data.
- Increasing maneuverability and better control over situations that may arise, being in a state of pre-preparedness for any emergency or change, allowing for the avoidance of unwanted events and the exploitation of future opportunities through direct decision-making techniques and future forecasting.

Therefore, the proactive behavior of foreign policy allows for the provision of new and timely information by adopting new and pioneering measures that focus on the future with self-initiative capable of changing the interactive environment. It aims to direct and change regional conditions according to the perspective of Algeria's international strategy, seeking to update the goals and tasks of diplomacy and giving it a proactive character that takes into account rational and sound approaches, which may even extend to military intervention as stipulated by Article 91 of the Constitution<sup>9</sup>.

This reflects the shift in the trajectory of Algerian foreign policy towards action to enhance military presence beyond borders, as permitted by the Constitution. Algeria firmly positions itself as a mediator seeking to spread peace, stability, and security within its concentrated scope in various areas of sovereignty, security, and influence<sup>10</sup>. The explicit self-will emerges to confirm moral, political, strategic, economic, human, social, and cultural interests as new and updated dimensions of foreign policy, in accordance with the geopolitical circles to which it belongs. These dimensions are based on:

- Developing partnerships and global peace.
- Modernizing diplomatic tools.
- Revitalizing economic diplomacy.

### **Conclusion:**

The foreign policy of Algeria is based on a pragmatic and practical approach, with principles that form the basis of its foreign movement in order to create a balance between the need to adopt a distinguished foreign policy and the pursuit of its highest goals and interests in the international environment. It is capable of directing regional policies in favor of Algeria's diplomatic autonomy by reshaping its relationships with neighboring Mediterranean and African countries based on common interests. The issues of energy resources continue to play a role in ensuring the continuity, durability, and stability of these relationships, alongside innovative initiatives that open the door to new economic practices.

Algeria's proactive approach in conflict resolution aligns with its strategic vision, as it reevaluates its areas of interest and focus, which redefine the determinants of Algerian foreign policy as follows:

- **Traditional determinants:** Based on the revolutionary liberation reference, which emphasizes human rights, basic freedoms, and the promotion of peace and security, derived from the fundamental and foundational principles of Algerian diplomacy.
- **Strategic determinants:** Linked to activating the role of regional power, revitalizing the dynamics and activities of Algerian foreign policy. The proactive dimension is included within

its framework in order to achieve the levels of foreign policy systems of advanced countries, based on sovereignty, influence, and impact.

- **Geo-political determinants:** Include the regional and international dimensions that make Algeria a key player and an active participant in the interactions and equations in the Sahel, Arab Maghreb, Mediterranean, Africa, and the world. These areas represent vital spaces with significant challenges and opportunities, encouraging positive and negative competition for Algeria. The change in Algeria's military doctrine in favor of constitutional orientation, allowing the National Army to intervene abroad, reflects this reality.
- **Geo-economic determinants:** Related to enhancing capabilities and attracting foreign investment by increasing efforts and diversifying partners, amidst international competition for energy outlets and the economic burdens of climate change and the Russo-Ukrainian war, which affected global food reserves. The growing interest in new forms of diplomacy, such as tourism diplomacy, academic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, and religious diplomacy, is also justified.

Therefore, Algerian foreign policy represents a challenge that carries a deeper dimension, considering the available capabilities and its regional and international weight, in light of internal independence and the developmental dynamism witnessed across all levels, where geopolitical aspects intersect with geo-strategic aspects.

Recently, The appointment of Mr. Ramtane Lamamra as the UN Special Envoy to Sudan represents a significant development in international efforts to resolve the crisis in Sudan. Lamamra plays a vital role in facilitating communication and negotiation between the different parties and promoting dialogue and stability in the country. In this context, Algeria can play an important role in supporting Lamamra's efforts and enhancing stability in Sudan.

Historically, Algeria has a long history of diplomatic work and mediation in regional and international issues. This expertise has been recognized and utilized in various crises, including African conflicts. Given the security and political challenges facing Sudan, Algeria can provide support and assistance to the UN envoy in his efforts to achieve peace and stability in Sudan. Algeria can play a role in facilitating dialogue among the conflicting parties in Sudan, promoting trust and mutual understanding, and providing political experiences and advice. Additionally, Algeria can utilize its diplomatic and regional networks to support regional and international efforts aimed at resolving the crisis in Sudan.

It is important to note that Algeria's role in the Sudan crisis will be influenced by various factors, including the interaction of the conflicting parties and other regional and international interests. However, with its diplomatic and mediation experience, Algeria can play a crucial role in supporting Lamamra's efforts and enhancing the prospects for a peaceful and sustainable resolution of the crisis in Sudan.

Considering the geopolitical challenges facing Algeria and the strong political doctrine governing its foreign policies, this article highlights the importance of Algeria as a regional and international player. Algeria needs to strike a balance between geopolitical challenges and ideological principles to achieve its national interests and enhance its regional influence.

The recommendations of the article include enhancing regional and international cooperation for Algeria to bolster its political and economic influence. Algeria should leverage its geopolitical capabilities and develop public diplomacy and diplomatic communication to strengthen its relations with other countries, particularly in Africa and the Arab world.

Furthermore, Algeria should update its political doctrine and adapt to current geopolitical transformations and changes in the international system. It is also important to promote transparency and participation in foreign decision-making, involving civil society and experts, to enhance good governance and achieve Algeria's political objectives.

In general, the article demonstrates that Algeria faces multiple geopolitical challenges and relies on a solid political doctrine in shaping its foreign decisions. Achieving a balance between geopolitical considerations and ideological principles, and implementing the aforementioned recommendations, can contribute to enhancing Algeria's role on the international stage and advancing its national interests.

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<sup>1</sup> - Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, "Inaugural Speech December 19, 2019," Presidency of the Republic, p. 18, in: [<https://www.el-mouradia.dz/ar/president/inauguration-speech>].

<sup>2</sup> - Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the President of the Republic, my 54 commitments to build a new republic, a summary of the presidential program 2019-2024 (Algeria: Ministry of the Prime Minister, President of the Republic's program), p. 36, accessed on February 20, 2023, at :<https://bit.ly/4bwgRDM>

<sup>3</sup> - Speech of the President of the Republic, p. 19.

<sup>4</sup> - Positivity in this idea is proposed as a contrast to the negative nature imposed by neutral positions and dealing with the outcomes of international phenomena, circumstances, and events as inevitabilities that cannot be controlled. It goes beyond the traditional capacities of the state, and thus, it may reflect a decline in diplomatic work or a weakening of its interaction.

<sup>5</sup> - The strategic dimension of cooperation refers to forming strategic alliances with competing countries on vital issues that revolve around ambitious and innovative matters with geopolitical, developmental, and effective dimensions. This is achieved through coordinating their skills, capabilities, and resources instead of engaging in competition. The aim is to provide added value and achieve a greater margin of potential profits and interests by leveraging the distinguished status of the collaborating parties, opportunities, and capabilities or skills they offer to confront the competitions and challenges imposed by the international system. The goal is to acquire additional strength to achieve regional competition, similar to what is happening in the Gulf region, East Asia, the South China Sea, and Africa.

<sup>6</sup> - The term "proactive" refers to taking initiative and anticipating events or situations rather than simply reacting to them. It involves actively seeking opportunities, taking preventive measures, and planning ahead to achieve desired outcomes. Being proactive means being forward-thinking, taking responsibility for one's actions, and actively working to create positive change or prevent problems before they occur. It is characterized by being proactive rather than passive or reactive in one's approach to situations and challenges.

<sup>7</sup> - in: W. Chan kim , Renée Mauborgne, **Blue Ocean Strategy : How to Create Uncontested Market Space And Make The Competition Irrelevant** ( Harvard business review press, 2005, 257 pages).

<sup>8</sup> - The concept of "proactivity" in individual behavior refers to anticipating future events and dealing with them or directing them based on available or potential capabilities. Its purpose is to avoid risks, focus resources, and avoid situations of doubt, ambiguity, or surprise that hinder the effective use of available means. It signifies exerting control over outcomes either by maintaining the status quo or changing it for the better, aligning with self-interest, and avoiding possible losses or identifying potential losses. Traditionally, responses have been reactive, but this approach takes a long time. Therefore, it is necessary to assess needs, develop response plans, and mobilize the necessary tools to prevent crises from escalating and to minimize the significant time gap between the emergence of a problem and the provision of a solution, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, advancements in scientific progress have provided capabilities and solutions that enable increasingly accurate predictions of the likely timing, location, and effects of various phenomena. Many researchers attribute the emergence of the concept of proactivity in international studies to the context of international wars, where the concept of preemptive action or preventive action is seen as a shift from reactive responses to the initiative of launching an attack to prevent a potential attack. It falls within the realm of proactive foreign policy tools.

<sup>9</sup> - The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Ministry of the Prime Minister, "Towards an Active and Proactive Foreign Policy," Government Action Plan for Implementing the President of the Republic's Program, February 16, 2021, pp. 53-55, in :[bit.ly/488VmWo](https://bit.ly/488VmWo)

<sup>10</sup> - The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the interests of the Prime Minister, "for an active and proactive foreign policy," the government's action plan for implementing the President's program in September 2021, p. 77.

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