

15th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the “5+5 Dialogue” of the Western Mediterranean



Valletta, 18 January 2019

Valletta Declaration

The 15th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the “5+5 Dialogue” of the Western Mediterranean was held in Valletta on 18 January 2019, under the co-Presidency of the Hon. Carmelo ABELA, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of the Republic of Malta, and Mr. Abdelkader MESSAHEL, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Mr Jean-Yves LE DRIAN, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, Mr. Mohamad TAHAR SIALA, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Libya, Mr Nasser BOURITA, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr Augusto SANTOS SILVA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic, Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain, Ms. Emanuela Claudia DEL RE, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, Mr. Ahmed Mahmoud SOUEID AHMED, General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and H.E. Zyed BOUZOUITA, Ambassador of Republic of Tunisia, participated at this Meeting.

Ms. Federica MOGHERINI, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (EU), Ms. Elisabeth GUIGOU, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), Mr. Nasser KAMEL, Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and Ms. Basma Soudani BELHADJ, Director of Political Affairs, Information and Cabinet of the Araba-Maghreb Union (AMU), also participated as partners.

This 15th Ministerial Meeting was preceded on 17 January 2019, by the 8th High-level Meeting of the Parliaments of the Member States of the “5+5 Dialogue”.

This Ministerial Meeting was held under the Maltese-Algerian co-Presidency, with the main theme being "**Working Together: A Sustainable Future for the Western Mediterranean**". Ministers acknowledged that a significant concerted effort should be made to collectively address sustainable development objectives for the benefit of the region. In this context, countries face a number of challenges, including those related to migration, the impact of climate change and bio-diversity loss, the threat of terrorism, radicalization and organized crime but at the same time, a number of opportunities that could provide the necessary impetus to address the aspirations and expectations of the people in the region.

Ministers welcomed the goals achieved in the sectoral ministerial meetings of the “5+5 Dialogue” since the last meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Dialogue held in Algiers on 21 January 2018. Conscious that the Western Mediterranean region presents numerous opportunities and complementarities which can serve to develop and promote a positive Agenda for this Dialogue, Ministers, highlighted the unifying role of the “5+5 Dialogue” and its relevance as an informal, flexible and practical framework for dialogue and partnership between the two shores of the Western Mediterranean, which contributes to the shared security, peace, stability, economic and social development in the region. The upcoming “*Sommet des deux rives, Forum de la Méditerranée*” will be another unique opportunity to gather proposals and projects related to this positive agenda.

The Summit will seek to generate new momentum in the Western Mediterranean through an inclusive and open agenda that gives an important role to the region’s particularly active civil society: young people, entrepreneurs, academics, artists, intellectuals and non-governmental actors representatives. It will especially deal with the following themes - Youth, Education and Mobility, Culture, Economy and Competitiveness, Environment and Sustainable development, Energies - and result in declarations, decisions and joint innovative projects for our common region.

Following in-depth exchanges on the various topics on the agenda, the Foreign Ministers agreed as follows:

Political Dialogue

Ministers agreed on the need to consolidate dialogue and consultations in the framework of the “5+5 Dialogue” with a view to a convergence of views and actions on regional issues of common interest. In this regard, they believe that political dialogue is the ideal way of finding appropriate and effective solutions to the ongoing crises that are negatively affecting the region and call for the continuation and deepening of dialogue and consultation on all matters of common interest with a view to greater cohesion of positions in regional and international fora.

Ministers agreed to work closely with the European Union to enhance the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Policy and to ensure its sustainability through a neighbourhood instrument in the framework of the next Multiannual Financial Framework. They reaffirmed the importance of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and its work that is aimed at integrating the region while enhancing cooperation between the five neighbouring countries on matters of common interest.

Ministers welcomed the leading role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) as a unique platform for regional cooperation, bringing together all the European Union and Mediterranean countries. To this end, they underlined the importance that the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean continues to promote concrete projects which have a positive impact on the citizens. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Union for the Mediterranean, Ministers reiterated their commitment to strengthening this framework for regional dialogue and cooperation. They renewed their appreciation for the organisation's effective model of governance which has increased ownership, encouraged political dialogue, optimized multi-stakeholder approach thus facilitating partnerships and synergies, and reinforced practical cooperation and regional integration, as part of an inclusive process based on the principle of consensus.

Regional Security

Fight against terrorism and radicalisation

Ministers affirmed that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security and that acts of terrorism are unjustifiable regardless of motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. Ministers also agreed to work towards a comprehensive and concerted approach that integrates the dimensions of security, economic and human development and expressed concern about the rise of all forms of extremism that may exacerbate rejection of others and lack of tolerance in an increasingly interdependent world. Ministers also emphasised that measures taken to counter terrorism must be compliant with all states' obligations under international law in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

Ministers recalled the importance of preventing and countering terrorism and its connections with transnational organized crime. They encouraged the exchange of experiences and good practices in the prevention of radicalization, rehabilitation, countering violent extremism and terrorism, the financing of terrorism and ensuring the protection of rights of victims of terrorist crimes.

In this context, Ministers welcomed the efforts of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), co-chaired by Morocco as well as Algeria as the co-chair of the Working Group on West Africa, in providing a multilateral, flexible and inclusive platform that contributes to the development and sharing of good practices addressing key emerging issues pertaining to countering terrorism and violent extremism including the GCTF-inspired International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law in Malta.

Ministers recognised the critical role that the criminal justice sector can play in preventing, deterring and disrupting terrorist activity, and the importance of regional co-operation through promoting judicial cooperation, capacity building, exchange of good practices and encouraging networking among relevant stake-holders.

Libya

Ministers reaffirmed their unequivocal commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya, reiterate their full support to the United Nations-led mediation process in Libya on the basis of the UN's recalibrated Action Plan. The main underlying principle should be that of ensuring the full commitment by the Libyan leadership and the international community to the political process as the only solution to the Libyan crisis.

Ministers also recalled their support to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the efforts of the Special Representative Ghassan Salame in addressing the three strands – political, economic and security - to bring about a lasting solution to the crisis in Libya and to achieve national reconciliation.

Ministers recalled that the Libyan Political Agreement, concluded in Skhirat (Morocco) on 17 December 2015, remains the only viable, inclusive and sustainable framework in favour of the stabilization of Libya, while taking into account the sustained UN-led efforts to create the appropriate conditions to achieve a lasting peace in Libya. Ministers recalled the efforts provided through the initiative by Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria to contribute to a solution in Libya.

In follow-up to the Paris Summit of 29 May 2018 and the Palermo Conference of 12-13 November 2018, Ministers reiterated their full support and commitment to advance the three strands of the UN

Action Plan for Libya, to assist in holding a National Conference in Libya in the first weeks of 2019 and adopting the subsequent constitutional framework and electoral process by the first half of 2019., Ministers also recalled that only by achieving progress on the political, economic and security tracks can progress be made in the transition to the benefit of all Libyans.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers reaffirmed that only a two-state solution will allow both sides to fulfil their aspirations, put an end to the conflict, and achieve the just and lasting peace that Palestinians and Israelis long for and deserve.

They expressed their deep concern on recent developments on the ground, in and around Gaza and in the West Bank and urged all parties to act with the utmost restraint, to de-escalate the situation and to avoid loss of life. The only way to resolve the conflict is through an agreement that ends the occupation that ends all claims and fulfils the legitimate aspirations of both parties. A lasting solution must be achieved on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the Madrid principles including land for peace, the Roadmap, agreements previously reached by the parties and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Ministers reiterated that settlements are illegal under international law and constitute an obstacle to peace and their determination to continue respecting the international consensus on Jerusalem embodied in, inter alia, UN Security Council Resolution 478.

Ministers reaffirmed their steadfast position on the need to preserve the identity and multi-denominational character of Jerusalem. Ministers welcomed the role played by the Al Quds Committee under the presidency of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

Syria

Ministers reiterated their grave concern with the continuing violence in Syria over the last year underlining that there can be no military solution to this conflict while stressing the importance of dialogue as a means to arrive at a political solution. They highlighted the urgency for all parties to commit to a political solution under UN-mediation as the only viable way to ensure sustainable peace and an inclusive political transition in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254. They continue to call for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2401 for a ceasefire in Syria and of the UNSCR 2254 for the re-engagement of all stakeholders in the political process. In this sense, Ministers stressed the importance of the formation of a Constitutional Committee, agreed upon at the Sochi Conference of January 2017.

Ministers expressed their gratitude to the former UN Chief Mediator for Syria, Staffan de Mistura for his tireless efforts and contributions to the search for peace in Syria. On the same note, they congratulated the newly-appointed UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir O. Pedersen, and expressed their support to his efforts in forging an inclusive and credible political solution in Syria.

Ministers expressed support for the implementation of a lasting ceasefire in Idlib and expressed the expectation that work will continue for the preservation of the cessation of hostilities in the province in order to avoid another humanitarian disaster in Syria.

In this context, steps that may lead to the normalisation of relations with Syria should not be taken given its lack of engagement in this process, which should not be rewarded.

Ministers expressed their concern on the humanitarian situation in Syria and reiterated the need to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people, who have endured so many hardships over the last seven years. Ministers expressed their full support for the next Brussels Conference on “Supporting Syria and the region” to be hosted by European Union in 2019.

Sahel

Ministers welcomed the peaceful holding of the presidential elections in Mali which took place on 29 July and 12 August 2018 and called upon all Malian stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali signed in 2015. Ministers recalled the importance of the Agreement to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in Mali.

Ministers commended Algeria in supporting the peace process in Mali as Head of the Mediation efforts and as Chair of the Comité de Suivi (CSA), thanked the EU for its support through the Office of EUSR Sahel, Angel Losada, and urged the Malian authorities to work towards a large political and social consensus with a view to undertaking the necessary reforms to tackle Mali's main institutional, security and development challenges, in order to improve the livelihoods of all its citizens, and re-affirmed their willingness to support the Malian Government in these efforts.

Ministers expressed deep concern over the continued extension of terrorist attacks in the Sahel region and strongly condemned the terrorist attacks against the civilian populations, the armed and security forces of Mali, the countries of the region, and the international forces of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Mission for Stabilization in Mali (MINUSMA) and Operation Barkhane.

Ministers recalled, in this regard, the role of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel in achieving peace and sustainable development, as well as in strengthening the resilience of the States of the region, through supporting their efforts so as to eradicate the root causes of conflicts and to tackle the inter-linked challenges facing the Sahel region.

Ministers reaffirmed the need for strengthening trans-regional, interregional and international cooperation on the basis of a common and shared responsibility, in order to deal with complex and multidimensional challenges facing the Sahel region, and welcomed the initiatives and measures taken by the States of the region, and regional and sub-regional organizations in this regard.

Ministers welcomed the progress made by the G5 Sahel countries towards the full operational capacity of a Joint Force to combat terrorism, transnational organized crime and all trafficking in the region. They recalled the importance to further these efforts, including through renewed joint operations. Ministers also acknowledge the efforts of the Committee of Joint Operations Staff (CEMOC) for the strengthening of security and stability in the region.

Ministers re-affirmed their commitment to support the G5 Sahel priorities and in this regard, welcomed the commitments made by the States of the Maghreb and the Sahel regions as set out in the Priority Investment Programme (SPIR). In this context, they stressed the need to further mobilize political support from regional and international actors to follow up on the pledges made during the High Level Conference on the Sahel that was held in Brussels on 23 February 2018 as well as the high level of the representation and outcome of the *Conférence de coordination des partenaires et bailleurs de fonds du G5 Sahel pour le financement du Programme d'Investissements Prioritaires (PIP)* held in Nouakchott on 6 December 2018.

Thematic Cooperation

Ministers agreed on the need to continue enhancing cooperation in a number of areas including sustainable development and migration, while placing a particular emphasis on youth, the biggest potential for a better future and a net benefit to our common region.

Youth

Ministers recognised that particular attention should be given to youth, as they remain at the heart of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are an asset and a solution to development challenges in the region.

Ministers reaffirmed the strong commitment of the 5+5 countries to strengthen cooperation to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. Ministers are conscious of the fact that a substantial number of SDG targets highlight the role of young people and the importance of their empowerment, participation, and wellbeing.

Ministers underlined in particular the importance of cooperation on youth matters and welcomed the contribution of the Anna Lindh Foundation to promote youth-led dialogue and a deepened cooperation on intercultural trends and media dialogue.

In this context, Ministers welcomed the Maltese and Algerian initiative to organise, in cooperation with the Anna Lindh Foundation, an informal exchange of views on 18 January 2019 between the Ministers and a number of young civil society leaders from the Western Mediterranean region on the main challenges and opportunities in the region. This event was an enriching experience which connected the political leadership with the bottom-up youth-led voices and contributed to the overall success of this Ministerial Meeting.

Ministers recognised that education is a prerequisite for youth employability and long-lasting development. Ministers stressed the importance of facilitating the integration of youth into the labour market and promote their role in the implementation of the SDGs.

Ministers affirmed that access to stable employment of a good standard is an essential criterion for youths to become productive members of society. They agreed on the need to create opportunities for youth and help them realise their full potential and find decent and sustainable work or start their own business.

Ministers commended Morocco's offer to hold a 5+5 Ministerial Conference on Youth, with a focus on Education and Employment, in the second half of 2019.

Sustainable development

Conscious of the common social, environmental and economic challenges facing the region, Ministers called for the enhancement of cooperation between the countries in the region with a view to reinforce collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Ministers recognised that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its set of integrated and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals, provides a framework for the balanced pursuit of economic, social and environmental objectives and, consequently, for the mainstreaming of energy transition and biodiversity. They reiterated the commitment for the full implementation of the SDGs and the eradication of poverty.

Ministers welcomed Algeria's initiative to include the theme of investments in the context of the 3rd Conference Ministerial 5+5 Finance-Investment which was successfully organised in Algiers on 18 November 2018.

Ministers welcomed the holding of the Ministerial meeting on the WestMED Initiative held in Algiers on 4 December 2018, which renewed the commitments made in Naples on 30 November 2017 and adopted a Roadmap for the WestMED Initiative together with an Annex on priorities for action, including concrete pilot projects. Ministers also welcomed the initiative of Algeria to host a successful Stakeholders Conference on the eve of this Ministerial meeting and the nomination of Morocco as co-chair with France of the Steering Committee of this initiative for the year 2019 and then with Italy for the year 2020. Ministers recognised the importance of capacity building of countries in the region to conserve and enhance biodiversity that would promote investment and help create jobs for local populations.

Ministers also welcomed Algeria's initiative to host the 1st Meeting of the Economic and Social Councils of the “5+5 Dialogue” Member States as a platform for exchange and cooperation on inclusive and shared economic and social development in the region as part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Ministers recognised the important role that Chambers of Commerce can play to promote trade exchanges and people-to-people contacts and to this end, agreed to explore the possibility of assisting in the organisation of the first meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the 5+5 Dialogue of the Western Mediterranean, which will be hosted by Libya in Tripoli, with the aim of increasing interaction between the Chambers and the setting up of side-meetings to facilitate business contacts and contribute to intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of SDGs.

They also welcomed the holding in Algiers from 25 to 27 June 2018 of the 3rd Annual Med Think Forum of the “5+5 Dialogue”, the results of which will make a definite contribution to human development in countries on both sides of the Western Mediterranean.

Ministers recognised that the **private sector** can play an important role in diversifying a country's economy, creating new avenues for employment and spurring innovation across many sectors. Initiatives, such as the European Enterprise Network, has helped to build new commercial partnerships across the region at a grassroots level. Ministers also underlined the link that exists between a country's ability to attract investment and the quality of its infrastructure. In this regard, Ministers underlined the importance of enhancing synergies between the “5+5 Dialogue” Member States to intensify infrastructural planning and development.

Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on **Climate Change** (UNFCCC) during which the Paris rulebook was adopted. This will enable climate action around the world and set in motion a positive political momentum ahead of the UN Climate Summit in September 2019.

Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). They recognised that biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services it provides, underpins human health and well-being, economic growth and sustainable development. They noted that 2020 will be a pivotal year for biodiversity negotiations. The COP-15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held at the end of 2020 in China, aims to adopt a new global biodiversity strategic framework and by new objectives.

Ministers stressed the importance of structuring cooperation in **marine and maritime sectors** to encompass a broad range of objectives comprising the creation of new, blue jobs and social well-being while also being mindful of sustainable development and the preservation of the environment in the Mediterranean area.

- *Technology and ICT*

Ministers recognised that **blockchain** technologies provide opportunities for private and public sectors. Many challenges of the technology and cross-disciplinary themes such as governance, technology, interoperability, financial risk or ecosystem still need to be settled.

Ministers recognised that the development of **cyberspace** has made a powerful contribution to the economic, social, cultural and political life of the region. In this regard, Ministers agreed to enhance cooperation on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), and digital connectivity through trust and confidence building measures on the basis of applicable provisions of international law and universal norms, rules and principles for responsible state behaviour. Ministers reiterated the need for an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment. They stressed the importance of combating cyber security threats, preventing potential use of ICT for criminal or terrorist purposes while protecting human rights and freedoms online and respecting applicable domestic and international legal frameworks for privacy and data protection.

- *Social and cultural issues*

Ministers committed to promote **gender equality** and **women's empowerment**, by providing and facilitating access to employment opportunities, basic education, and healthcare and by supporting gender-based policies which address the challenges faced by women and girls, such as discrimination, limited access to economic opportunities, and basic social services, including health care.

They recognised that greater gender equality will mean less poverty, more economic growth, and a higher standard of living, which will in turn contribute to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5.

Ministers reiterated their determination to strengthen efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including forms of exploitation such as trafficking.

Ministers welcomed the Lisbon Declaration issued after the successful “5+5 Dialogue - Western Mediterranean Dialogues and Bridges: Cultural Heritage and New Generations” as promoters of dialogue between peoples and cultures. Ministers reaffirmed the crucial role of **cultural cooperation** and intercultural dialogue as essential vehicles for addressing the challenges and ensuring the rapprochement between the countries of the “5+5 Dialogue”.

They also welcomed the holding in Algiers in 2019 of the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the 5+5 Dialogue on Culture, which will further strengthen the centuries-old cultural ties between the peoples of both shores of the western Mediterranean.

Ministers recognised the important role that tourism can play in bringing Mediterranean countries closer together by increasing the understanding between its peoples.

Ministers recognised that the **tourism** industry creates employment across all age and skill groups and therefore support initiatives that capitalise on tourism's potential to advance sustainable economic growth, environmental protection as well as intercultural dialogue, tolerance and understanding.

Migration and Mobility

Ministers recognised the importance of the dialogue on the human dimension of migration in the framework of the "5+5 Dialogue." A positive agenda tackling the challenges and opportunities of migration within a holistic approach will pave the way for shared responsibility and solidarity in addressing this issue. Furthermore, Ministers will continue working towards a comprehensive, concerted and balanced approach to the management of migratory flows that reconciles mobility and the fight against irregular migration, while integrating the dimensions of security, economic and social development.

They recognised that addressing the roots causes of irregular migration will require the intensification of efforts to eradicate poverty, create jobs, cope with the current and future impacts of climate change, enhance good governance, prevent and resolve conflicts, consolidate peace and counter terrorism.

Ministers welcomed progress in safeguarding the human life of migrants in the Mediterranean. It is evident that positive results in the management of irregular migratory flows are the fruit of continued and coordinated efforts that have been undertaken within different fora, at the bilateral, regional and global level.

Ministers called for the reinforcement of efforts to disrupt the business model of smugglers in the Mediterranean and pledged to further their cooperation. They acknowledged the need to improve capacities and coordination mechanisms to safeguard lives in the Mediterranean. Ministers call for the respect of the applicable laws and not to obstruct operations of the relevant national authorities both on land as well as by vessels at sea.

Ministers agreed that better governance of migration could be a driver for development benefitting countries of origin, transit and destination as well as migrants and host communities.

Ministers took note of the role played by the State of Libya and its constructive cooperation further to the African Union-European Union Summit in Abidjan in 2017 and the progress on the programme of the voluntary return of a significant number of irregular migrants.

Ministers commended the Kingdom of Morocco for the central role it played in hosting and chairing the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which was convened under the auspices of the General Assembly of the United Nations and held in Marrakech, Morocco on 10 and 11 December 2018.

The Global Compact on Migration as well as the Global Compact on Refugees reflect ambitious, yet attainable objectives. Ministers took note of the aims of the Global Compact to promote a shared responsibility on mobility of refugees and regular migrants in a holistic and comprehensive approach.

In 2018, Morocco also hosted the XI Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development on 5-7 December in Marrakech and the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process) on 2 May. The Ministers welcomed the Marrakesh

Political Declaration and Action Plan. Ministers also recalled the Senior Officials Meeting of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) held in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, on 14-15 in November.

Ministers welcomed the holding of the second edition of the annual Mediterranean Migration Media Award in Tunisia, as well as the High-Level Panel Debate entitled ‘Giving Voice to Evidence – Overcoming a Distorted Narrative on Migration and Moving Towards Evidence Based Migration Policy Development’ was held in September 2018 in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York and was co-sponsored by Malta, France, Tunisia, the European Commission and ICMPD.

Ministers agreed upon the importance of migration policies to be adopted on evidence-based analysis and a balanced narrative. While the challenges raised by citizens’ concerns and perceptions about migration in countries of destination must be acknowledged and taken seriously, they must be balanced by messages that avoid any attempt of racism or xenophobia and the contributions of migrants and refugees to social, economic, scientific and cultural development.

Ministers welcomed the proposal of Morocco to host a 5+5 Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development during the last quarter of 2019.

Sectoral and thematic cooperation

5 + 5 Sectoral meetings since the 14th 5 + 5 Ministerial Meeting:

Ministers took note of the progress made in 2018, in the implementation of the 5+5 sectoral programs, around the following meetings:

- Ministerial Meeting on Migration (Morocco, 2 May 2018);
- 3rd 5+5 Annual MED Think Forum (Algiers, 25-27 June 2018);
- 2nd 5+5 Culture Ministers’ Meeting (Lisbon, 21 September 2018);
- 3rd Conference of the 5+5 Finance-Investment Ministers Meeting (Algiers, 18 November 2018);
- 2nd 5+5 Ministerial Meeting on the Initiative for the Sustainable Development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean (Algiers, 4 December 2018);
- Ministerial Meeting on the WestMED initiative (Algiers, 4 December 2018);
- Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO 5+5) Ministerial Conference (Mauritania, 11-12 December 2018); and
- 14th Meeting of the Ministers of Defence of the 5+5 Dialogue (Rome, 12 December 2018)

Other meetings and seminars:

- 8th Cycle of the 5+5 Defence College under the subject “Flag State Jurisdiction” (Malta, 12-15 March 2018);
- 26th Steering Committee Meeting of the ‘5+5 Defence’ Initiative (Florence, 13-15 March 2018);
- 10th intermediate level training cycle on the theme: “Air security, a common preoccupation for Member States of the 5+5 Defence Initiative” - Air Traffic Safety Training Session (Marrakesh, 25-29 March 2018);
- “The use of helicopters in the desert environment” (Oran, Algeria, 9-10 May 2018);
- “The vulnerability of the Sahel countries and their impact on the 5+5 Region (Nouachakott, Mauritania, 25-27 June 2018);
- Final Coordination Conference of the Exercise “*Guerriers de la Méditerranée*” (Rome, 3-4 July 2018);
- 5+5 Defence Course on vacation in exceptional situations (Tunis 17-20 September 2018);
- 5+5 Defence Training Desert Survival Exercise (Tunis, 30 September-6 October 2018);
- 4th Steering Committee Meeting on the WestMed Initiative (Algiers, 3 October 2018);

- First Scientific Committee meeting of the 5+5 training centre for Humanitarian Demining (Tripoli, 9-11 October 2018); and
- 5th Steering Committee Meeting on the WestMed Initiative (Algiers, 3 December 2018)

Upcoming meetings

- 5+5 Experts Meeting of the Administration of the Website (Algiers, 19 February 2019);
- 5+5 Ministerial Conference on Youth, with a focus on Education and Employment (Morocco, 2nd half of 2019);
- Technical Seminar on Food Safety and Economic Activities (Portugal, 2nd half of 2019);
- 5+5 Experts Seminar on Sport (Algiers, 2nd half of 2019);
- 5+5 Ministerial on Migration and Development (Morocco, last quarter of 2019)
- 3rd Ministerial Conference of the 5+5 Dialogue on Culture (Algiers, 2019);
- 1st meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the 5+5 Dialogue (Tripoli, 2019); and
- 5+5 Ministers of Defence (Tripoli, 2019)

Ministers welcomed the upcoming “*Sommet des Deux Rives, Forum de la Méditerranée*” that will be held in Marseille on 24 June 2019, hosted by H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic.

Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Malta for its work in search of consensus and the hosting of the Malta Conference. They welcomed the work done by Algeria during its co-Presidency and accept with pleasure the availability of the State of Libya to ensure from this day the Southern co-Presidency for the next two years.

The 16th meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Western Mediterranean Dialogue will be held in Tripoli in 2020, under the Maltese-Libyan co-Presidency.

Malta, 18 January 2019