

Foreword

Forewords can easily take on the appearance of simple afterthoughts. Certainly this particular foreword benefits strongly from hindsight. Just one short day after last September's NATO-sponsored Canterbury Workshop on Mediterranean security, terrorists attacked the United States, and the global strategic landscape changed dramatically. With one fell swoop, the subjects discussed and conclusions drawn at the Workshop simply had to be viewed in a different light. I am sure that you, having lived through 11 September and the days that followed it, will appreciate this compilation of the Workshop's proceedings in ways the organisers could have never imagined.

Well before 11 September - from the mid-1990s onwards - NATO had already been looking at the Mediterranean region in a new light; no longer just as the Alliance's "Southern Flank", as had been the case during the Cold War, but as an area with unique dynamics whose security and stability directly affect European security. That is why NATO launched, in 1994, its Mediterranean Dialogue with originally 5 countries from the region. 11 September has underlined the great value of this Dialogue, and the need to intensify it as we - Allies and non-Allies together - tackle the threat of terrorism and other common security challenges.

NATO Allies are convinced that there is further scope for enhancing both political consultation and practical cooperation with the seven nations that currently participate in the Dialogue: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. It is clear to us all that promoting better mutual understanding and correcting misperceptions are more important now than they were even a year ago. So that is what the Alliance is intent on doing, including by sponsoring such highly interesting gatherings as the Canterbury Workshop summarised in this volume.

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Lord Robertson of Port Ellen
NATO Secretary General