Insecurity in the MENA region has been growing significantly over the last two decades. In spite of tremendous efforts, the regional, national, and human security situation has only worsened; human security remains in an especially concerning condition.

_We have to face reality._ Put simply, “more of the same” actions will risk “more of the same” consequences: a continued and notably acute deterioration of security. It is imperative to develop new approaches to security around the Mediterranean. Faced with grave questions, we need to seek new answers. Fresh approaches can only emanate from innovative, out-of-the-box thinking.

**Continuing the discourse**

The 2017 Mediterranean Discourse on Regional Security concluded that trustful, meaningful security partnerships based on a vision of shared responsibility are crucial for fostering successful new approaches to security, be it on a regional, national or human level. The track record of regional security cooperation since the Arab Uprisings and the Migration and Refugee Crisis exhibits that an integrated approach based on common goals has been consistently rejected in the pursuit of national goals.

While the 2017 workshop of the Mediterranean Discourse on Regional Security highlighted the importance of a common vision of shared responsibility for security partnerships, the 2018 workshop will focus on how to translate this common vision into practice. Participants of the 2017 workshop identified a range of relevant issues in relation to shared responsibility; the 2018 workshop will address three of these topics, each of utmost importance for security around the Mediterranean.
Youth

In all MENA countries, the demographic majority is under 35. This generation experiences acute political and economic exclusion; they are, by and large, left feeling that there is no future for them in their respective countries. However, this generation will inevitably shape the human, national and perhaps regional security situation of tomorrow. Thus, the modality of their integration into the societies of today matters greatly. Although experienced less acutely on the northern shores, the young generation in many southern European countries faces similar evil, particularly unemployment. Therefore, one of the most urgent questions we must answer: How can youth play an effective role in security partnerships?

Local Government

Local governance is rarely addressed in deliberations about security, especially in regards to national and regional security. This is a grave error, particularly because the root causes of regional crises are often local. In this sense, the EU and its individual member states stress that solutions to the Migration and Refugee Crisis must address causal factors rooted in countries of origin.

Hence, the questions to be discussed will include: How can local actors share responsibility for security around the Mediterranean? How can solutions be construed and pursued locally?

Human Security and its Relevance for National and Regional Security

Over the past two decades, the significance of human security has gained consensus. However, contemporary security dilemmas across the MENA region suggest otherwise. Despite positive rhetoric, national and regional security interests are pursued at the expense of human security.

The 2018 workshop will focus on youth and local governance to offer fresh insights into the interrelationship between human and national/regional security.

What insights will be gained from discussions about security partnerships around the Mediterranean in regards to a common vision of shared responsibility?

The Mediterranean Discourse on Regional Security 2018 will be characterized by the pursuit of greater understanding of regional security around the Mediterranean, as well as by the drafting of decisive policy recommendations on how to empower local governance and youth in security partnerships.