


# Toward a Transformative Vision for West Asia: Establishing a “Muslim West Asian Dialogue Association” (MWADA)

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## **Abstract**

The geopolitical landscape of West Asia, especially the Persian Gulf region, is characterized by protracted conflicts, humanitarian crises, and complex historical grievances. To address these challenges and foster stability, this paper proposes the establishment of a new constructive initiative - the Muslim West Asian Dialogue Association (MWADA) - at the heart of the region. This initiative seeks to bring together key Muslim nations in this region for comprehensive dialogue and cooperative action, grounded in principles of mutual respect, shared security, and economic integration. By focusing on shared challenges and opportunities, MWADA aims to transform the current narrative of conflict into one of collaboration and sustainable development, emphasizing the urgent need for a collective approach to regional issues.

**Keywords:** Iran, Regional Security, West Asia, Proxies, Corridors.

## Introduction

As a lifelong student and practitioner of international relations, my perspective on West Asia is informed by decades of experience at the intersection of diplomacy and regional affairs. The crises that plague this region are often portrayed through a lens of zero-sum thinking, where nations see each other as rivals rather than collaborators. We have seen time and again that the outcome of zero-sum approaches to international—and indeed all human—affairs has inevitably been negative sum.<sup>1</sup> The reality is that the stability and prosperity of West Asia hinge on a transformative approach that prioritizes dialogue and cooperation over conflict and dominance.

The need for a new paradigm is underscored by the ongoing humanitarian crises in Gaza, the violent upheaval in Syria, and the enduring instability in Yemen and Lebanon. These crises highlight the profound inadequacy of traditional responses that have focused primarily on military solutions and temporary ceasefires. The concept of "enemy" as a tool for governance, leading to exclusion and disenfranchisement can no longer serve the long-term interest of any actor<sup>2</sup> in today's post-polar world,<sup>3</sup> even the proponents and beneficiaries of the old paradigm rooted in the Cold War.

Instead, there is an urgent need for a framework that fosters genuine dialogue and builds partnerships based on shared interests. The proposed Muslim West Asian Dialogue Association (MWADA)<sup>4</sup> seeks to address these pressing issues by establishing a platform for meaningful engagement among key Muslim stakeholders in the region.

### 1. Context of Ongoing Crises

The contemporary crises in West Asia are complex and multifaceted, rooted in a history of external interventions, sectarian tensions, and local grievances. The ongoing violence in Gaza, characterized by occupation, discrimination, violations of fundamental rights and cycles of military aggression and retaliatory strikes, exemplifies the urgent need for a sustainable political

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1. M. Javad Zarif and Sassan Karimi, "A World in Transitions: Rethinking the Current Global Order," *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2023. DOI: 10.1142/S2377740023500203

2. United Nations Group of Eminent Persons, *Crossing the Divide*, (South Orange, NJ, USA: Seton Hall University, 2001)

3. Zarif and Karimi (2023).

4. MWADA, the acronym for this initiative, resonates with Muslim audiences as it evokes the Arabic term *al-Mawaddah*, meaning 'amity,' and connoting empathy.

solution that addresses the root causes of the crisis through restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.<sup>1</sup> Over the last twelve years, the conflict in Syria has led to a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, displacing millions. Recent developments in Syria and the departure of President Assad have created a fluid and volatile situation, leaving a power vacuum in the Levant that may facilitate the resurgence of extremist groups with spillover effects in the rest of West Asia.

## **2. Historical Grievances and External Interventions**

West Asia has defining historical features that have been massively affected by ongoing and intense competition. Historical grievances play a crucial role in perpetuating the cycles of violence in the region. Colonial legacies and the arbitrary borders drawn by external powers have exacerbated ethnic and sectarian divisions and deepened border disputes, leading to conflicts that are not easily resolved through conventional diplomatic means. Moreover, the involvement of external powers—with self-serving and often competing interests—has further complicated the situation, undermining local efforts for peace and regional reconciliation. Not surprisingly, the dynamics of regional politics have manifested in deep, long-standing patterns of enduring "enmity-friendship."<sup>2</sup>

## **3. The Need for Transformative Initiatives**

In light of these challenges, a transformative approach is essential. MWADA aims to facilitate dialogue among key Muslim nations of this troubled region, fostering collaborative solutions that address the root causes of conflict. By engaging in frank dialogue about shared interests and mutual security,<sup>3</sup> as well as complaints and anxieties, member states can begin to redefine their perceptions and thus their relationships and work towards a more stable and prosperous region. As defined by the United Nations Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, dialogue requires readiness to listen and examine assumption,

*Dialogue among civilizations is a process between and within civilizations, founded on inclusion, and a collective desire to learn,*

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1. Many resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council as well as United Nations' human rights bodies underline these root causes of the Palestinian Crisis.
  2. Buzan, Barry and Ole Waver. *Regions and Powers: The Structure of International Security*. (Cambridge University Press, 4 Dec 2003).
  3. "A Stronger Prescription for Security: Dialogue," *Global Agenda*, (New York: United Nations Association of USA, 2005).

*uncover and examine assumptions, unfold shared meaning and core values and integrate multiple perspectives through dialogue.*<sup>1</sup>

The establishment of the MWADA represents a pivotal moment in West Asia's diplomatic landscape. By bringing together influential Muslim nations—Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen—MWADA will be able to create a comprehensive dialogue framework that can facilitate cooperation and address the pressing challenges facing the region.

#### **4. The Core Values of MWADA**

The MWADA aptly named to mean *amity* and suggesting *empathy* in Arabic, embodies an overarching objective that transcends mere policy proposals. It represents a pragmatic call to action and a new framework based on the common Islamic faith of regional states.<sup>2</sup> These states can draw upon the long-neglected mandate that the United Nations Security Council provided to the UN Secretary-General in 1987 under Resolution 598, as a global umbrella and even a legal foundation for this comprehensive dialogue. This resolution, which concluded the Iran-Iraq War, calls upon the UN Secretary-General to consult Iran, Iraq, and other nations to explore measures that could enhance stability and security in the region.<sup>3</sup> It underscores the legitimacy of cooperative initiatives and provides a framework for addressing contemporary security challenges. At the same time, it offers the necessary international umbrella to allay the concerns of smaller states in the region and ensure the legitimate interests of the global community and extra-regional actors — including stability, freedom of navigation, and free flow of oil and other resources to and from the region.

MWADA will be anchored in several foundational principles that reflect the shared values of Islam and the aspirations of its member states. Like any other regional mechanism, members should also observe the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including, in particular:

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1. United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/Res/56/6, 21 November 2001.
  2. "Neighbor Before Home: An Ethical Advice or a Strategic Necessity" Al-Ra'y, August 13, 2015. (Arabic)
  3. 8. Operative paragraph 8 of Security Council Resolution 598 (20 July 1987) reads: "Further requests the Secretary-General to examine, in consultation with Iran and Iraq and with other States of the region, measures to enhance the security and stability of the region;"

- **Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:** Respect for the sovereignty of each member state is paramount. MWADA will foster a dialogue that allows nations to address their differences without external interference or coercion.
- **Non-Intervention:** The association will promote a policy of non-intervention, encouraging member states to engage with one another diplomatically rather than resorting to subversion, the financing or arming of opposition groups, or the formation of rival external alliances aimed at undermining others.
- **Inviolability of International Borders:** This region has inherited colonial borders that while sometimes arbitrary cannot be reversed. The opening of Pandora's box of border disputes is a recipe for never-ending conflicts. Inviolability of internationally recognized borders remains the only viable solution.
- **Collective Security:** Recognizing that security cannot be achieved at the cost of insecurity of others, MWADA will aim to establish mechanisms for collective security that enhance the stability of member states through cooperation and collaboration.
- **Mutual Respect and Equal Footing:** Countries of the region vary drastically in size, population, natural resources, military capabilities and economic wealth. A collective commitment to mutual respect and equal footing is the only way to overcome these divergences, which have themselves been the source of anxieties and conflicts in the past.
- **Empathy and Dialogue:** By fostering a culture of empathy and understanding, MWADA will encourage member states to engage in constructive dialogues that focus on common values and objectives.

### **5. Institutionalizing Security and Prosperity**

The primary objectives of the MWADA may include establishing a platform for dialogue and negotiation among member states, promoting peace and stability by addressing ongoing conflicts through diplomatic means, facilitating economic cooperation and integration among member states to enhance regional interdependence and developing joint initiatives to address shared challenges, such as extremism, water security, and humanitarian assistance.

One of the key components of the MWADA will be the establishment of a regional collective security architecture that addresses the diverse security concerns of member states. This architecture should encompass mechanisms for conflict resolution, cooperative military exercises, and intelligence sharing to combat

shared threats.<sup>1</sup>

Through cooperative initiatives aimed at economic development, MWADA can foster an environment conducive to innovation and growth. By supporting research and development, promoting entrepreneurship, and facilitating investment among member states, the association can drive economic transformation in West Asia.

Establishing immediate security measures is critical to building a foundation for sustained peace and stability within the MWADA framework. Member states must prioritize conflict resolution and humanitarian assistance to alleviate human suffering and create conditions conducive to dialogue.

### **6. Sustainable Ceasefires**

A crucial first step for MWADA is to negotiate sustainable ceasefires in ongoing conflict zones, particularly in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen. By prioritizing the cessation of hostilities, MWADA can create an environment that fosters dialogue and healing. These ceasefires should be accompanied by comprehensive monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance and to address violations effectively.

### **7. Non-Aggression Pacts**

In conjunction with ceasefires, MWADA should establish bilateral or multilateral non-aggression pacts among member states. Such pacts will serve as formal agreements to prevent military confrontations, either directly or indirectly, including through the provision of land and air access. It can also envision multilateral or bilateral mechanisms for early warning systems that support conflict resolution through diplomatic channels. The establishment of a collective regional monitoring mechanism will further enhance the effectiveness of these arrangements, build trust among member states, and enhance accountability.

### **8. Humanitarian Interventions**

Addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of affected populations is vital to the success of MWADA. The forum must advocate for the prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance in conflict zones, ensuring that aid reaches those who are most vulnerable. Joint humanitarian missions can help foster a sense of

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1. "Security Considerations in the Middle East, An Iranian Approach" Arms and Technology Transfers: Security and Economic Considerations Among Importing and Exporting States, (Geneva: UNIDIR, 1995.)

solidarity among member states, reinforcing the cooperative spirit that MWADA aims to cultivate.

### **9. Pursuing a Nuclear Weapons-Free West Asia**

An integral component of MWADA's vision is to work towards a nuclear weapons-free West Asia<sup>1</sup>, fostering an environment of trust and collaboration. Working towards a region free from nuclear weapons and leveraging the delicate balance of the Iran Nuclear Deal (the JCPOA), is an essential component of this vision<sup>2</sup>. As an interim step towards the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East<sup>3</sup>, member states may engage in dialogue to address fears of nuclear proliferation while committing to transparency in their nuclear activities. This approach not only addresses nuclear proliferation but also reinforces a collective commitment to peace and stability.<sup>4</sup>

Implementing confidence-building measures among member states will be crucial to establishing trust. These measures can include regular dialogues on security issues, sharing information about nuclear programs, and conducting joint security exercises focused on non-proliferation and disaster response. By fostering an environment of transparency and cooperation, MWADA can alleviate concerns surrounding nuclear capabilities and promote a culture of peace.

### **10. Addressing Shared Challenges**

In addition to conflict resolution and economic integration, MWADA must prioritize collaboration on shared challenges facing member states. Establishing a regional council for sustainable water management, initiating joint counter-terrorism initiatives, and running media campaigns that promote coexistence are vital steps in strengthening the fabric of a shared future. A partnership between Iran and Saudi Arabia—two of the region's most influential

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1. United Nations' General Assembly Resolution 3263 (9 December 1974) reiterated annually by the UN General Assembly.

2. "Iran Has Signed a Historic Nuclear Deal. Now It's Israel's Turn" The Guardian, 31 July 2015.

3. General Assembly resolutions on NWFZME have remained unimplemented due to Israeli possession of nuclear weapons and refusal to engage in serious negotiations for a nuclear weapons free zone. In order to remove Israeli concerns, sponsors of the zone widened it to include all weapons of mass destruction, but it has not succeeded yet. (<https://www.un.org/en/unpdf/conference-on-establishment-of-middle-east-zone-free-of-nuclear-weapons-and-other-wmd>)

4. Paul Ingram and Emad Kiyaei, "Middle East WMD-Free Zone: Thinking the Possible", The Cairo Review of Global Affairs, Fall 2019.

powers—will play a crucial role in this endeavor. Fostering unity and brotherhood among Shia and Sunni Muslims can effectively counter the divisive forces of extremism and sectarian strife that have historically destabilized the region.<sup>1</sup>

Extremism poses a significant threat to the stability of West Asia. MWADA should initiate joint counter-terrorism initiatives that address the root causes of radicalization. This can include educational programs aimed at promoting tolerance, cultural exchanges that foster mutual understanding, and collaborative efforts to dismantle extremist networks.<sup>2</sup>

Ultimately, the success of MWADA will be measured by its ability to enhance the welfare of the people in the region. Initiatives must prioritize social justice, equitable resource distribution, and improved living conditions. By focusing on the well-being of citizens, MWADA can foster a sense of ownership and commitment to the goals of the association.

Governance reform is also a critical component of sustainable development in the region. Countries like Syria, ravaged by years of conflict, will require substantial reforms to promote accountability and transparency. MWADA must advocate for governance structures that prioritize the inclusion of marginalized groups, particularly women and minority communities, allowing them to have a voice in shaping their future.

Promoting cultural exchanges among member states can play a crucial role in countering divisive narratives and fostering understanding. Initiatives aimed at encouraging youth exchanges, arts collaborations, and educational programs focused on shared history can strengthen ties and build a sense of community.

## **11. Economic Integration for Sustainable Development**

Economic integration is a cornerstone of the MWADA vision, as it holds the potential to transform the region's economic landscape. Currently, West Asia suffers from fragmented trade networks and insufficient cooperation on development initiatives, perpetuating cycles of poverty and instability.

The establishment of the MWADA Development Fund is essential for financing critical infrastructure projects and economic

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1. M. Javad Zarif, "The Imperative of a Comprehensive Strategy to Fight Violent Extremism" *Harvard International Review*, June 18, 2015.

2. M. Javad Zarif, "How to Handle the Enabling Conditions for Extremism and Terrorism" *Iranian Review of Foreign Affairs*, Vol 7 No. 1, Winter and Spring 2016. Also Translated in Arabic in *Al-Ra'y*, April 23, 2017.

initiatives. This fund can focus on post-conflict reconstruction efforts in devastated areas, particularly in Gaza, Syria and Yemen, harnessing resources from member states to support local economies. Furthermore, the fund can finance initiatives aimed at mitigating the socio-economic impacts of conflict, investing in education, healthcare, and job creation.

To enhance economic ties, MWADA should work towards establishing regional trade agreements that promote intra-regional trade. Reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers among member states can incentivize economic cooperation and stimulate growth. By fostering economic interdependence, MWADA can create a foundation for stability and mutual prosperity that benefits all member states.

## **12. Regional Corridor Cooperation, Energy Security Guarantee and Transit Connectivity Prosperity**

MWADA will provide fertile ground for the development of regional corridors. Ranging from infrastructure projects and trade routes to energy pipelines and telecommunication networks, corridors facilitate not only the movement of goods but also the exchange of energy, information, and services across regions. They link nations and create mutually beneficial integrated economic zones and facilitate the efficient movement of production factors as well as the trade of goods and services across borders. The region thus needs to initiate comprehensive corridors with significant potential that can spur growth to diversify economies as well as the economic policies and partnerships of governments. The people and governments of West Asia should understand a new concept of independence which is increasingly intertwined with a country's share in the global value-added chain.

Corridor initiatives aimed at developing regional infrastructure are vital for fostering economic cooperation. MWADA can facilitate the creation of transportation corridors that enhance access to markets and promote trade among member states. These projects can include railways, highways, and maritime routes, facilitating the movement of goods and services across borders. The Belt and Road Initiative, among other proposals and frameworks, can provide one viable multilateral umbrella for these efforts.

## **13. Energy Security Agreements**

Energy security is another critical area for cooperation under the MWADA framework. As member states share energy resources,

collaborating on energy infrastructure developments—such as pipelines and electrical grids—can create synergies that enhance regional interdependence. By ensuring the stability of energy routes, MWADA can safeguard against disruptions while promoting shared benefits from natural resources. Energy security agreements guarantees present an opportunity for deepened regional interdependence. Such regional energy agreements should aim to safeguard energy routes while simultaneously promoting the exploration and development of sustainable energy resources.

#### Freedom of Navigation

MWADA can also herald new regional cooperation on freedom of navigation by proposing joint maritime security patrols. The region is home to global strategic maritime chokepoints, including the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. Iran, given its strategic location and security expertise, is uniquely positioned to contribute constructively to the security of vital waterways like the Strait of Hormuz, while other states can play a leading role in securing the Suez Canal and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. Reinforcing these channels is crucial for both regional and global economic stability. **The Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE)—introduced by Iran more than five years ago—** serves as a significant example of a regional initiative aimed at fostering peace and stability in the Hormuz community, bringing together many states.<sup>1</sup>

#### 14. Water Security and Joint Management of Water Resources

Water security is an urgent challenge for many West Asian nations. Given the increasing pressures of climate change and population growth, the need for sustainable water management is more pressing than ever.<sup>2</sup> MWADA can facilitate the exchange of best practices, technologies, and strategies for managing shared water resources effectively.

MWADA should prioritize the establishment of joint management initiatives for transboundary water resources. With many member states facing water scarcity, collaborative efforts can foster sustainable water management practices, ensuring equitable access and reducing the potential for conflict over water resources.

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1. Mehran Haghiriyan and Luciano Zaccara, “Making Sense of HOPE: Can Iran’s Hormuz Peace Endeavor Succeed?”, Atlantic Council, October 3, 2019.

2. Guansu Wang, et.al. “Water resource management and policy evaluation in Middle Eastern countries,” *Desalination and Water Treatment*, Volume 320, 2024.

### **15. The Role of Iran in MWADA**

Like other participants, Iran would play an indispensable role in the proposed framework. Its constructive contribution to MWADA is essential due to its geographical location, historical significance, and cultural influence in West Asia. Over the past 45 years, Iran has shown remarkable resilience and self-reliance in security and defense, managing not only to survive but also to thrive despite external pressures and without foreign assistance.<sup>1</sup>

### **16. The Myth of Iranian Proxies**

The tall tales about Iran's so-called proxies in the region stem from a mistaken—but widely held—perception that Iran has maintained patron–client relationships with resistance forces. When historical facts are taken into account, this allegation appears to represent a concerted public diplomacy intended to divert attention from the real cause of the Israeli–Palestinian crisis and the resistance—namely Israel's occupation of Arab lands, desecration of Islamic holy sites, apartheid, genocide, constant aggression—toward an unsubstantiated Iranian proxy war against Israel.

While Iran has supported and will continue to support what it and other members of MWADA consider to be resistance against Israeli policy of apartheid, it is clear that such resistance existed before the Islamic Revolution and will continue as long as its root causes prevail. The resistance forces are not subject to Iranian whims; rather, they have pursued their own national liberation struggles. A case in point are the recent acts of legitimate self-defense by Iran itself following Israeli armed attacks against Iranian territory and citizens. Operations True Promise and True Promise 2 were carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran from Iranian territory<sup>2</sup>, not by resistance forces operating near the Israeli-occupied territories. As such, Israel's false narratives may be useful as tools of temporary public deception but are dangerously misleading and can negatively impact the development of long-term strategies to deal with wicked problems arising from illegal occupation, apartheid and genocide.

One of the critical tasks for MWADA will be to reframe regional narratives. Long viewed through the lens of suspicion and rivalry, it is essential to acknowledge that Iran's support for resistance movements often stems from a shared commitment to common

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1. "Missile Proliferation and Missile Defense" A disarmament Agenda for the Twenty-First Century, (New York: United Nations, 2002).

2. <https://www.mehrnews.com/news/6244325>

regional causes rather than an extension of imperial ambitions. By fostering a more nuanced understanding of regional dynamics, MWADA can help build bridges and promote reconciliation.

### **17. A New, Confident and Opportunity-Driven Iran**

Iran's long history has been replete with aggressions from outside, occupation by foreigners and consistent loss of territory in wars<sup>1</sup> and imposed treaties and agreements from 1813<sup>2</sup> until 1973.<sup>3</sup> While never colonized and always capable of assimilating occupiers into its culture and civilization, the Iranian political psyche developed a deep wariness of foreign influence, fostering a threat-focused approach. The forced starvation of Iranians under allied occupation in World War II remains fresh in the memory of Iranian elderly and the collective memory of Iranians.<sup>4</sup>

However, this collective social apprehension may be gradually yielding to a more confident and forward-looking Iran, provided that the region and the international community understand and appreciate this historic development. Through the last four decades, while enduring severe sanctions, wars, terrorist attacks, cyber assaults, and psychological warfare, Iran has successfully safeguarded its territorial integrity and vital security interests. Indeed, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the only government in the past 220 years of Iranian history that has not ceded any territory to foreign aggression—a testament to its enduring strength and

1. "Why Iran is Building-Up Its Defenses" Washington Post, April 21, 2016.

2. Iran ceded vast territory in Southern Caucasus to Russia in Golestan Agreement of 1813

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Treaty-of-Golestan>), followed by losing all southern Caucasus in Turkmenchay Treaty of 1813, East shore of the Caspian Sea and Merv on Akhal Treaty of 1881 (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Treaty-of-Turkmenchay>), Herat in Paris Treaty of 1857 ([https://dlme-review.stanford.edu/library/catalog/81055%2Fvdc\\_100000000884.0x00013a\\_dlm](https://dlme-review.stanford.edu/library/catalog/81055%2Fvdc_100000000884.0x00013a_dlm)) as well as Eastern Sistan and Eastern Baluchistan in sequential agreements of Haldich (1896), first Goldsmith of 1863 and Second Goldsmith of 1872, and MacMahon 1903 Arbitrations along with other territories in the next 150 years. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater\\_Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Iran)) Occupation of Iran, in spite of its neutrality, during the two World Wars and forced starvation of Iranians exacerbated Iranian fear of outsiders. 1973 was the year of Iran's first war victory in 180 years. However, that was achieved when Shah acted on behalf of the United States in Dhofar under the Nixon doctrine.

3. Marc Pellas, Oman: How the Shah of Iran Saved the Regime, 5 March 2020 (<https://orientxxi.info/magazine/oman-how-the-shah-of-iran-saved-the-regime,3681>)

4. Majd, Mohammad Gholi (2016). Iran under Allied Occupation in World War II: The Bridge to Victory & A Land of Famine. University Press of America.

political stability.

Like all nations, Iran has faced its share of challenges and missteps. The Iranian people, having endured significant sacrifices, are now prepared—with resilience and confidence—to take bold steps toward prosperity and regional cooperation. This shift from a threat-centered perspective to an opportunity-driven approach aligns with the vision outlined by President Pezeshkian during last summer's presidential campaign. Integrating Iran's experiences and perspectives into MWADA will enrich dialogue and enhance prospects for cooperation among member states.

### **18. Reimagining the Region: A New Paradigm for Regional Relations**

MWADA challenges member-states to adopt a new paradigm for their relationships, one characterized by collaboration rather than rivalry and opposing block formations. This shift requires active engagement, willingness to listen, and a commitment to addressing the concerns of neighbors.

The vision of MWADA invites us to reimagine West Asia not as a battleground for rival interests, nor as a market for selling security<sup>1</sup> and buying allegiance, but as a region characterized by cooperation, shared goals, and collective prosperity.

The dialogue facilitated by MWADA must extend beyond political leaders to include civil society organizations, religious institutions, and grassroots movements. Engaging diverse voices will enrich the discussions and ensure that a wide range of perspectives inform the initiatives undertaken by the association.

Embracing technology and innovative solutions will be fundamental in driving the objectives of MWADA. Collaborative efforts to address issues such as cybersecurity, climate change, and public health can represent new areas of cooperation, enhancing regional resilience and capacity.

### **Conclusion: A Collective Path Forward**

The transformation of West Asia into a region marked by peace and collaboration is not merely an aspiration; it is a strategic imperative for the future of its people. The establishment of the Muslim West Asian Dialogue Association (MWADA) offers a unique opportunity to foster dialogue and cooperation among key stakeholders.

For MWADA to realize its potential, member states must

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1. "Beautiful Military Equipment Can't Buy Middle East Peace" New York Times, May 26, 2017.

commit to engaging in meaningful conversations that transcend historical grievances and focus on shared interests. By prioritizing mutual understanding and cooperation, a West Asia characterized by stability, prosperity, and hope for future generations can be realized.

As we face the challenges of today, the opportunity to redefine our regional trajectories is within reach. Let us seize this moment to embrace a future that reflects the core values of MWADA—promoting peace, justice, and shared prosperity across the region. Leaders in our respective governments must take this opportunity to look toward the future rather than remain prisoners of the past. By placing collaboration above confrontation, we can pave the way for a brighter future in West Asia, cultivating a region where empathy, understanding, and cooperation prevail over discord and division.