Roadmap for the Atlantic Centre (2025-2027)

Lisbon, January 2025

The establishment and consolidation of the Atlantic Centre have progressed under Portuguese leadership since 2018. The Centre evolved into a significant hub for cooperation across the Atlantic. The formal launch on May 14th, 2021, marked the first major milestone. Building upon the Atlantic Centre Roadmap (2022-2024), the period from 2025 to 2027 will focus on consolidating the Centre's multilateral structure, expanding partnerships, and strengthening its impact across the Atlantic region.

Mission Statement

The Atlantic Centre will foster the development of an Atlantic community of interests, focusing on the security and prosperity of the Atlantic region in broad terms. It will serve as a facilitator of dialogue, a research hub, and a capacity-building platform, enhancing collective efforts to address shared challenges and opportunities.

Principles

1. **Whole-of-Atlantic Approach:**
   The Centre will promote an inclusive Atlantic framework that bridges North-South and East-West divides, ensuring a comprehensive and balanced perspective on Atlantic security. Efforts will emphasize inclusivity while respecting regional identities and fostering shared objectives.

2. **Comprehensive Security:**
   The Atlantic Centre will adopt a broad security perspective, integrating defence, internal affairs, justice, development cooperation and environmental resilience. This holistic approach will encourage partnerships with regional institutions, civil society, academia, and community organizations to address security challenges comprehensively.

3. **Complementarity:**
   Building on existing initiatives, the Centre will ensure its activities partner efforts and address identified needs, while promoting innovative approaches to foster an Atlantic security community.

Objectives (2025-2027)

1. **Promote the Atlantic Centre and strengthen the signatories and parteners commitment:**

   a. Enhance outreach activities to broaden visibility and engagement.

   b. Foster strategic partnerships across Atlantic states and organizations.

   c. Expand the number of signatories to the Joint Declaration.

   d. Develop flagship projects and activities.

2. **Advance an whole-of-Atlantic security perspective:**

    a. Facilitate regular political dialogues and exchanges among Atlantic stakeholders.

    b. Organize high-level seminars, workshops and conferences.

    c. Publish strategic documents and research outputs on integrated security policies.

    d. Develop and deliver cooperative training initiatives.

3. **Consolidate an Atlantic community of interests:**

    a. Establish regular high-level dialogue mechanisms.

    b. Promote studies and expert meetings on Atlantic security.

    c. Create platforms for governmental and societal dialogue on security issues.

4. **Institutionalize the Atlantic Centre:**

    a. Define a multilateral management structure to solidify the Centre's.

    b. Expand partnerships and diversify funding sources.

    c. Reinforce staff, accommodate permanent or non-permanent staff from signatorie states.

Actions and Means

Tier 1: Dialogue

1. Organize annual political-level meetings and regular sessions (when possible 3 times a year) with Points of Contact (PoC).

2. Host thematic seminars to deepen understanding of Atlantic security challenges.

3. Establish forums for civil society and expert engagement.

Tier 2: Research

1. Conduct studies on emerging threats, risk assessment, and strategic foresight.

2. Collaborate with universities and think tanks to produce research outputs.

3. Publish policy briefs and reports addressing critical Atlantic security issues.

Tier 3: Capacity Building

1. Develop training programs for maritime security, disaster response, and emerging security domains.

2. Facilitate doctrine harmonization and information-sharing among Atlantic states.

3. Support capacity development in technology and operational standards.

Key Activities

1. **Regular Meetings:**

   a. Host quarterly multilateral PoC meetings to review progress and plan activities.

2. **Outreach and Networking:**

   a. Develop a comprehensive outreach strategy to engage governments, academia, and civil society.

   b. Identify areas of cooperation with influential partners across the Atlantic basin.

3. **Strategic Dialogues:**

   a. Support maritime governance structures like the Yaoundé Architecture.

   b. Facilitate exchanges on climate resilience and countering illicit activities.

   c. Promote trust-building measures and conflict prevention mechanisms.

4. **Public Events and Publications:**

   a. Host the annual Atlantic Security Seminar in partnership with the Portuguese National Defence Institute.

   b. Organize thematic events with universities and publish proceedings and policy briefs.

   c. Reinforcing the promotion and publicising of the Atlantic Security Award.

5. **Capacity Building:**

   a. Deliver training for military and civilian personnel on maritime and cyber security.

   b. Promote standardization of doctrines and operational best practices.

6. **Institutional Development:**

   a. Increase the number of signatory states and develop participation guidelines.

   b. Expand cooperation agreements with non-state entities and establish a network of alumni and "Friends of the Atlantic Centre."

Resources

Portugal remains committed to leading and financing the Atlantic Centre's activities. Investments will include:

1. Expand the Centre's facilities.

2. Reinforced annual budgets for 2025-2027.

3. Co-funding from partner states and organizations.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Portuguese Ministry of Defence will oversee the implementation of this roadmap. Key actions include:

1. An annual report on progress and outcomes.

2. A final assessment report in 2027, outlining achievements and future priorities.

Conclusion

The period from 2025 to 2027 will be pivotal for the Atlantic Centre's consolidation and growth. By fostering dialogue, advancing research, and building capacity, the Centre aims to enhance security and prosperity across the Atlantic, solidifying its role as a hub for Atlantic cooperation.