Security and Democracy as Shared Values on Global Governance for Peace and Development

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During the last two years the world has witnessed two grave conflicts with global impact: the Russian aggression towards Ukraine and the Israeli-Gaza conflict. Once again proving that war is one of the constants of history. Tragically, despite the decades of democratic attempts and the founding of collective peace institutions, in almost 3,500 years of recorded history only less than 300 hundred years have seen no war, bringing us in mind what Virgil writes in his work Aeneid: *Erunt etiam altera bella, atque iterum ad Troiam magnus mittetur Achilles.* (There will be other wars, and great Achilles will again be sent to Troy.)

Whilst the world is in need of peace and development, Europe, with the most consolidated supranational institution such as EU, and with a prominent NATO presence, continues to witness wars and conflicts. Recently NATO has taken fast steps to expand its membership, hence its zone of influence, focusing mostly on security, whereas the democracy in the aspiring EU and NATO countries seems to be understated, not considering security and democracy, hand in hand, as the two inseparable shared values on European and global governance for peace and development, this, despite the continues message of EU leaders and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg that "the commitment to freedom, democracy, and the rule of law are the values that lie at the heart of the NATO Alliance." The same understatement of democracy is occurring with the Israeli-Gaza conflict.

This presentation will address these two major conflicts in the light of security and democracy as the pillars of the shared values on global governance for peace and development, analyzing and demonstrating key events, facts and illustrations, and holding forth ideas on facing the challenges for a more peaceful and developed future.

Key words: Security, democracy, peace, development, EU, UN, NATO, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza.