

8th Retreat of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), 20th – 21th May ,2017 in Addis Ababa , Ethiopia

Draft Final Communiqué

At the kind invitation of the House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the General Secretariat of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), ASSECAA's eighth Retreat was held in in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from May 20-21, 2017.

The event marked a commendable tradition, which has been observed by ASSECAA since its inception. During retreats, a variety of issues of high importance to member councils are thoroughly deliberated and reflected upon in order for members to come up with conclusions that immensely contribute to boosting the efforts exerted by Arab and African countries in their endeavour to achieve development and keep up with contemporary civilization.

Attendance

The under-listed member Shoora, Senates and equivalent councils in Africa and the Arab world attended the meeting.

- Council of the Nation of the people's Democratic Republic of Algeria .
- House of Counsellors of Morocco.



- Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- Senate of ^{the Republic} Zimbabwe .
- Shoora Council of the State of Qatar .
- Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- House of the Senate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- Council of States of the Republic of Sudan.
- Senate of Republic of Burundi.
- House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The Senate of kingdom of Swaziland was represented by officials from the Swazi embassy in Addis Ababa, with Yemen's Shoora Council represented by officials from the country's Addis Ababa-based embassy.

The retreat kicked off with opening speeches by H.E Dr. Omar Suleiman Adam Wanees, Chairman of ASSECAA and Speaker of Council of States of Sudan, and H.E Mr. Abdulwasie Yusuf Ali, ASSECAA's Secretary General. Both emphasized the importance of the topics raised at this meeting, and that member councils should assume their responsibilities in terms of benefitting optimally from the outcomes of such events, and reflecting same into their legislative and oversight functions.

Several heads of delegations delivered speeches in which they stressed the importance of making best use of such meetings. The speech further enriched the topics of the retreat due to the invaluable, carefully thought-out ideas ensconced therein. They also expressed gratitude to ASSECAA's leadership for selecting highly significant topics characteristic of the present day world dominated by a plethora of trends and notions that should be dealt with seriously in such a way as to utilize the experiences of developed countries.

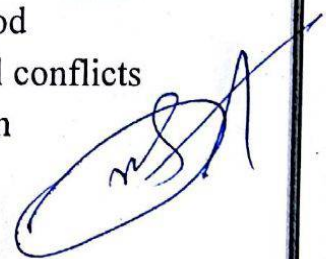
The meeting deliberated upon the following three key themes:

- Good Governance: Concepts, features and models, a work-paper by Dr. Habib Makhtoum, Chairman of the Committee on Peace and Foreign Communication, Council of States of Sudan.
- Responsibilities of the present generations in ensuring peace and security of the future generations: Reflections on the leadership role of the legislature, a paper presented by Ambassador Ibrahim Idris Ibrahim, Executive Manager of IW Research and Consultancy (Put' Ltd.) Centre for international relations.
- Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab regions: what should they do to enhance sustainable development in the two regions, a work- paper by Negussie Zewdie (MSc), Agricultural expert, From Peace, Development and Democracy Forum (Think- tank).

Following two days of extensive discussion of the aforementioned topics, the participants arrived at the following recommendations:

1-The participants emphasized good governance as a collective endeavor that engages the effective state institution, civil society and the people.

2-Legislatures should prioritize the achievement of good governance in such a way that spares countries internal conflicts and infighting, wipes off backwardness and helps attain development and progress.



3-Since legislatures exercise oversight over the executive authority, the latter must achieve efficiency in terms of providing services to citizens.

4-Legislatures must propagate the principles of good governance through intensive workshops, seminars and awareness campaigns.

5-The participants affirmed the importance of implementing the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in order to achieve a better life for future generations.

6-The participants affirmed the importance of the effective implementation of the Universal Declaration on the responsibilities of present generations towards future generations issued by UNESCO in 1997.

7-They further affirmed the need for including the provisions of such agreements into the national laws of different countries.

8-The current success of societies will lay ground for caring for future generations.

9-ASSECAA's General Secretariat should consider the idea of establishing a specialized committee within the association to be called "the committee on science and technology", which will be tasked with conducting scientific research on the most up-to-date methods of promoting economic development and introducing scientific and industrial aids into university and secondary school curricula.

10-The committee will also be assigned with searching for the best ways and means of exploiting the natural resources and cultural components abounding in Africa and Arab world so as to achieve economic development in the two regions.

