

Workshop on the Impacts of illegal immigration from Afro-Arab countries to foreign countries on the sidelines of the third meeting of the executive committee of women parliamentarians, Khartoum, Sudan, February 9,2014

Final Communiqué and Recommendations

Womenfolk in Africa and Arab world seek for socio-economic, political and cultural development. To this end, they harness their intellectual and financial potential.

Accordingly, under the auspices of H.E Ambali Abdullah Al-Ajab Ambali, Speaker of Council of States of Sudan, and on the sidelines of the third meeting of the executive committee of women parliamentarians held in Khartoum, Sudan , a workshop on the illegal effects of migration from African and Arab countries to foreign nations was organized on Sunday, February 9, 2014.

Delegates from Sudan, Gabon, Yemen, Bahrain, and Morocco attended the event. Also in attendance were ASSECAA's secretary general Mr. Abdul Wasie Yusuf Ali and Arab League's envoy Mr. Tamir Sulieman, lawmakers, government officials , diplomats and representatives from civil society organizations.

At the opening ceremony, H.E Ambali Abdullah Al-Ajab Ambali, Speaker of Council of States of Sudan, addressed the attendees, expressing his profound gratitude to ASSECAA for the substantial efforts it has been exerting since its inception to deliberate upon a whole range of socio-economic, political and cultural issues, particularly those appertaining women, children and households, while seeking best solutions thereto.

He confirmed that ASSECAA constitute one of the guarantees for forging Afro-Arab integration as the world is witnessing the process of building

worthwhile entities in such a way as to achieve the wellbeing and prosperity for nations.

He urged the Association to address the legal and illegal immigration as well as its root causes, including, wars, conflicts famine, and rising poverty. He hoped that the seminar would come up with valuable recommendations that lay out a roadmap for tackling burning issues, not the least the illegal immigration from Sudan and other countries.

He called upon all African countries to join ASSECAA, expressing his immense gratitude to H.E Abdul Wasie Ali, ASSECAA's Secretary General, for his great efforts at the advancement of the Association and the implementation of its activities. He also thanked Ms. Ablah AL-Mahdi , chairwoman of the executive committee of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world, and all those who contributed to the success of this fruitful work.

For his part, Samia Hassan, chairperson of the national authority for women parliamentarians, gave a speech in which she expressed happiness over the hosting of this workshop, pointing out that Sudan is considered as a bridge of communication between Africa and Arab world that share in common lots of customs and traditions.

She called for enhancing relations between the two regions as well as for harnessing their potential in such a manner that achieves progress and development. She further called for setting out an action plan for accomplishing most sought-after integration between the two regions.

She, in conclusion, stressed the importance of protecting youth immigrants.

Madam Ablah Al-Mahdi, Chairperson of ASSECAA's executive committee on women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world, addressed the delegates, pointing out the committee's objectives of enhancing intellectual cooperation, eliminating conflicts, fighting corruption, consolidating transparency and accountability, promoting and upgrading women-related legislation, and creating the conducive environment for

women's participation in decision-making. She touched upon the recommendations and resolutions from the previous meetings of women parliamentarians, especially those relative to resolving women's problems in Africa and Arab world.

Concluding her remarks, she affirmed the importance of addressing the illegal immigration with the specific objective of providing effective solutions to the phenomenon.

ASSECAA's Secretary General, Abdul Wasie Yusuf Ali, for his part, delivered a speech in which he welcomed the delegates to the meeting, expressing his deep gratitude to the government and people of Sudan, and the Council of States of Sudan in particular, for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to delegates. He also thanked the executive committee on women parliamentarians for the positive role it is assuming in terms of enabling women to take part in decision-making in the political, socio-economic and cultural aspects of life. He underlined that the achievement of economic development predicates on women's involvement in all aspects of life, highlighting that ASSECAA is making genuine efforts at the empowerment of women in such a way as to enable them play their civilizational role in uplifting their nations. He noted that it is high time that women were fully empowered, including by giving them access to education in order to contribute effectively to resolving lots of accumulative problems.

The event's second session, which was chaired by Dr. Badriah Suleiman, saw the presentation by Dr. Khaled Ali Lord of a work-paper titled "The Illegal Immigration of Arabs and Africans to Europe", in which he gave both the English and Arabic definitions of illegal migration and refugees based on the provision of Geneva Charter. He also detailed the phenomenon's root causes and patterns, with a special focus on the illegal immigration to Europe which has so far taken in over 810,000 illegal migrants.

The paper touched upon Europe's security policies and mechanisms of preventing the influx of illegal immigrants to the continent. In conclusion,

the paper came up with a set of recommendations aimed at making the phenomenon a positive thing.

Dr. Karar Al-Tuhami, Chairman of the Sudanese community abroad, reviewed the illegal immigration laws, while Mr. Babakar Abdu latif , a legal advisor to the Council of States of Sudan , commented thereon.

Following extensive deliberations by the delegates of Sudan, Morocco, Yemen, Gabon and Bahrain, and other participants, the function came up with the following recommendations:

- Strengthen cooperation and partnership between the North and the South in order to push forward the pace of development and address poverty.
- Promote practical efforts and upgrade the legislation and laws to ensure the strengthening of safeguards and mechanisms of protecting civil, political, economic and social human rights.
- Engage in serious initiatives for internal, border and territorial disputes through peaceful settlement, as well as realistic and compatible political solutions to them in order to stop the depletion of resources.
- - Strengthen cooperation and exchange between Arab and African countries through the optimum use of shared resources and energies, especially in the field of immigration and security procedures as well as the facilitation of reuniting immigrant families.
 - Rehabilitation of resource management systems with a view to raising the level of good governance, which represents an essential condition for the correct implementation of economic and social strategies.
 - There is need to respect fundamental human rights, including cultural rights for all immigrants, regardless of their legal status.
 - Combat all forms of racism , xenophobia and contempt of religion in general, particularly in migrant-receiving countries.
 - Ensure equal treatment for Arab and African immigrants in terms of national employment , wages , working conditions, social security and pension, as well as rights and freedoms.
 - Set out mechanisms that ensure giving kind treatment for illegal immigrants and, and tighten up punishment for human traffickers.
- - Hammer out mechanisms for integrating immigrants into their new communities.
 - Work on the establishment of a regional migration observatory to be tasked with creating data and statistics on the scope, trends and characteristics of Afro-Arab migration to Europe.

- Hold training courses for immigrants in order to educate them on their rights enshrined in national and international laws.