



**Meeting of the Committee on Women Parliamentarians in Africa and
Arab world**

Cairo-Egypt 8th-9th February, 2015

Final Communiqué

Under the auspices of the General Secretariat of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World (ASSECAA), ASSECAA's committee on women parliamentarians organized a conference on the enhancement of relations among women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world in Cairo, Egypt from 8th-9th February, 2015. The conference, which was hosted by Women, Family and Child Department, Arab League (AL), was aimed at boosting rapport among women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world, and pushing forward women's participation in the political and economic process. In holding the conference, the committee took into account the regional and international conventions that boosted the role of women, and demanded that women be granted their constitutional right to get involved in all the initiatives intended for resolving all contemporary issues in order to prevent the squandering of natural resources, consolidating cooperation and coordination in terms of enhancing the status of women at the economic and political levels in an effort to forge a serious, balanced relationship among brotherly Arab and African countries.

Since its inception, the committee has held numerous meetings and relevant conferences which came up with recommendations that reflected ASSECAA's member states' keenness and enthusiasm to reinforce a multi-dimensional cooperation among them. Such cooperation can be achieved by laying out joint mechanisms for consolidating the principles of peace,

broadening public participation , respecting human rights, and reviving peace in such a way as to contribute to the achievement of stability and socio-economic development that would go a long way towards building stable and developed communities.

The event , which was attended by a host of delegates from all ASSECAA's member countries, was inaugurated by H.E Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Jarwan, Speaker of Arab Parliament, H.E Abdul Wasie Yusuf Ali, ASSECAA's Secretary General, H.E Dr. Ambali Abdullah Al-Ajab Amabli, Speaker of Council of States of Sudan, and head of Sudanese delegation, H.E Dr. Edna Madzongwe , Speaker of the Senate of Zimbabwe, H.E ambassador Enas Makawi, Director of Women, Family and child Department , Arab League(AL), H.E Abdullah Hassan Mahmoud, dean of the diplomatic Corps., extraordinary plenipotentiary ambassador, and Somalia's representative to the AL. Delegates from the following member and non-member countries attended the conference:

- The Senate of the Republic of Zimbabwe
- Council of States of the Democratic Republic of Sudan.
- The Shoora Council of Yemen
- The Shoora Council of Kingdom of Bahrain
- The Shoora Council of Arab Republic of Egypt.
- The National Council of Provinces of South Africa.
- The Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- The House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- The Senate of the Republic of Gabon.
- The House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- The House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco.

-Council of States of South Sudan.

This conference is regarded as a key pillar for boosting womenfolk's march, given the highly significant topics it has debated, mainly the socio-economic, and political empowerment of women. Four work-papers were presented during the event: the First paper dealt with Afro-Arab rapprochement, the second focused on the mechanism of Afro-Arab cooperation and Empowerment of women in the two regions, the third tackled the economic empowerment of Arab and African women, and the fourth treated the political empowerment of African women. The conference came up with the following recommendations:

- Working out an Afro-Arab mechanism for the empowerment of women.
- Emphasizing the importance of social and cultural communication amongst women parliamentarians.
- Consolidating the socio-economic empowerment of women parliamentarians in order to strengthen relations among Arab and African countries within the framework of the Association.
- Emphasizing the role of women in enhancing relations among Arab and African women parliamentarians.
- Encouraging parliaments to engage women in sustainable development.
- Raising the level of women's representation in member countries' parliaments.
- Asserting commitment to the principle of consolidating the efforts aimed at broadening women's participation in all spheres.
- Setting up a nucleus for Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee within ASSECAA's Committee on Women parliamentarians, which shall comprise women parliamentarians from member countries. The committee shall be tasked with addressing peace and security issues.

- Approving budgetary allocations for the purpose of funding meetings of women parliamentarians' committee.
- Supporting the participation of women with special needs in the economic, social and political aspects of life.
- Reviewing and making laws that enhance the empowerment of women.
- Issuing an annual report to monitor the extent to which women have achieved progress in terms of the socio-economic and political empowerment of women at the political and economic levels.
- Stressing the importance of following upon the implementation of all conclusions and recommendations from the previous conferences.

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

9 February 2015

