



**Final Communiqué of ASSECAA11<sup>th</sup> conference Rabat, Kingdom of  
Morocco, 3-4 March 2022**

Under the high patronage of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of the Kingdom of Morocco, the 11<sup>th</sup> conference of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) was held from March 3 to 5, 2022, at the headquarters of the House of Councilors in the capital city of Rabat. This conference also coincided with the organization of the South-South" Parliamentary Dialogue Forum involving Senates, Shoora, equivalent and regional parliamentary unions in Africa, the Arab world, Latin America and the Caribbean called by the Association.

Fortunately, the holding of this conference synchronizes with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Association, which made the 11<sup>th</sup> conference a historic opportunity to inaugurate a new phase of the Association's work in order to promote common Arab and African interests and establish a new set of parliamentary initiatives aimed at enhancing joint cooperation and economic integration and actually contribute to realizing the aspirations of our peoples for a decent life, well-being, prosperity, peace and security.

The conference expresses great pride in the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his patronage of the works and activities of the 11<sup>th</sup> h conference of the Association, as well as its appreciation of the pioneering role of His Majesty in building a civilized dynamism for cooperation, joint development and strengthening strategic security in the African continent and the Arab world.

While the conference notes the warm reception and the successful and impressive organization by the House of Councilors, it commends the high leadership spirit of Mr. Enaam Mayara, Speaker of the House of Councilors and Chairman of ASSECAA, who gave a new impetus to the work of the Association and contributed to building on the significant gains it had accumulated over twenty years .



**The conference was attended by the following Councils/Senates :**

- Shooa Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Senate of the Republic of Burundi
- Shooa Council of the State of Qatar
- House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco
- Senate of Republic of Gabon
- Senate of the Democratic Republic of Congo
- House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- House of State of Libya
- Senate of Lesotho
- Senate of Republic of Madagascar
- Senate of the Republic of Zimbabwe
- Senate of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Shooa Council of the Republic of Yemen
- Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates
- Shooa Council of the Sultanate of Oman
- Senate of Equatorial Guinea
- Senate of the Republic of Kenya
- Senate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Shooa Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- Senate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire



ASSOCIATION DES SENATS, SHOORA ET CONSEILS  
EQUIVALENTS D'AFRIQUE ET DU MONDE ARABE

- Senate of the Kingdom of Eswatini
- Senate of the Republic of Cameroon
- Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen
- House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco

**Observer delegations also attended as follows:**

- Association of Mediterranean Parliaments
- Arab Parliamentary Union
- African Parliamentary Union -
- The Arab Parliament

In the opening session of the conference, the Chairman of the Association, H.E Mr. Enaam Mayara, gave a speech in which he welcomed the attendees and thanked them for accepting the invitation to attend this event which is very significant for both the Arab and African regions. The Chairman stressed that "in addition to overcoming the problems and challenges that the African and Arab groups are experiencing. In the Association, we have taken up the challenge of boosting openness and strengthening our presence as a regional organization in regional and international parliamentary forums, and as an organization for dialogue and bridges of cooperation with other regional parliamentary groupings, both in the north and in the south. He stressed that on the occasion of commemorating the 20th anniversary of its founding, we are surrounded by the responsibility for an objective evaluation of our work, an evaluation that aims to explore the prospects for work and the future of our association, and just as the capital, Rabat, was the space for the actual launch of the association in June of 2002, we want our capital, Rabat, today, to remain witness that our conference in 2022 was a real station for making the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world a regional framework".

After that, the works of the conference began, where the Secretary-General of the Association, Mr. Abdulwasie Yousef Ali, presented the annual report of the Association, which detailed the activities and tasks carried out by the General



ASSOCIATION DES SENATS, SHOORA ET CONSEILS  
EQUIVALENTS D'AFRIQUE ET DU MONDE ARABE

Secretariat of the Association during the past period -since the last conference of the Association was held in 2017, as well as the emergency conditions imposed by the Corona pandemic on the Association, which prevented the holding of some in-person activities, with the activities limited to meetings through the ZOOM platform.

The Secretary-General also submitted a proposal for the activities and tasks that both ASSECAA's General Secretariat and Chairmanship propose to be carried out during the year 2022, which fall within the goals that the Association seeks to achieve to serve the Arab and African regions, foremost among them is the promotion of economic and trade cooperation and building bridges of understanding and coordination on all issues of common interest.

The Secretary-General's report also included an explanation of what the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition has done since its establishment , highlighting the importance of the role entrusted to it, especially since the world today places the issue of providing food and nutrition among the priorities that require concerted international efforts to deal with it .

The report also included an explanation of the financial situation of the Association, what was spent during the past period, and a budget proposal for the year 2022. The Secretary-General also requested that the contents of his report be considered a topic for discussion in this conference.

Afterwards , the conference resolved into three committees as follows:

- Finance Committee
- Program Committee
- The Final Communiqué Committee-

Then the conference continued discussing the central topics included on its agenda, namely

"African-Arab cooperation and solidarity, a mainstay for economic and developmental rehabilitation in light of the repercussions of the Corona pandemic"

"Youth and women at the heart of sustainable development policies and investments"



These topics were discussed through substantive interventions and contributions, in which the conference invoked the responsibilities of parliamentarians and their role in working for the emergence of a new Arab-African model for fair and equitable cooperation based on respect for the sovereignty of states, the unity and integrity of their territories and serving the best interests of their peoples.

The conference committees presented the results of their work, which was enriched with insightful discussion and informed opinions.

**In conclusion, the conference came out with the following recommendations and resolutions:**

- 1-The Conference approved the recommendations of both the Finance and the Program Committees; the conference also emphasizes the importance of member councils' engagement in the activities of the Association and hosting its meetings .
- 2-The conference stresses the importance of revitalizing cooperation in various fields between the Arab and African regions, especially in the developmental, economic and trade fields, and working to remove the obstacles that prevent the expansion of joint cooperation, foremost among them are customs and movement barriers. The conference also calls on Arab and African countries to reinforce air, sea and land transport to facilitate the transfer of people, goods and services between the countries of the two regions;
- 3-The conference emphasizes support for bicameralism (the two-chamber system) , which involves expanding the base of participation in decision-making and ensuring the integrity and accuracy of legislation and its relevance to reality;
- 4-The conference stresses that the post-Covid 19 stage requires the emergence of a new generation of cooperation initiatives aimed at serving the best interests of the peoples of the African continent and the Arab world;
- 5-The conference further stresses the importance of giving a new impetus to the implementation of sustainable development goals in the Arab and African regions, in coordination with the relevant United Nations institutions, and keeping pace with the implementation of the “Agenda 2063” approved by the African Union;



6-The conference stresses the need to reform the COVAX system in order to meet the needs of African and Arab countries , to accelerate the process of strengthening collective immunity against the Corona virus and its variants, and to boost the mechanisms of economic and social recovery, given that the end of the pandemic is conditional on the adoption of global justice for access to vaccines;

7-The conference stresses the importance of strengthening Arab-African financial cooperation mechanisms by encouraging the creation of investment funds to encourage co-localization of industrial, agricultural and service activities and considering establishing an Arab-African institution to finance joint development, in addition to increasing cooperation between central banks and establishing strong joint financing institutions to ensure investments;

8-The conference stresses the importance of establishing a strategic partnership that enables the Arab-Asian countries to have a “preferential status” within the framework of the promising prospects offered by the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.

9-The conference emphasizes the importance of sharing experiences and best practices related to strengthening health, energy and food sovereignty in the African continent and the Arab world with a view to enhancing robust Arab-African cooperation in such a way as to boost strategic security, especially in light of the great global imbalance in supply chains and the emergence of new conflict areas that threaten global supply chains.

10-Calling for the establishment of a “Network for Women Parliamentarians for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls in Africa and the Arab World” in order to strengthen gender-responsive budgeting mechanisms, formulate strategies and proposals to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and adopt appropriate public policies and legislation to empower all women and girls in Africa and the Arab world;

11-Enhancing parliamentary advocacy in order to strengthen youth support programs and finance their initiatives while inviting Arab and African countries to formulate innovative plans to keep pace with the major transformations in the labor market by setting practical measures for strong access to the dynamism of the Fourth



Industrial Revolution and digital transformation, in addition to accelerating mechanisms for Internet connectivity and investment in its fifth generation (5G);

12-While the Conference condemns all forms of terrorism that the Arab and African regions are experiencing, it also strongly condemns the cross-border attacks launched by the terrorist Houthi group, including the attacks on the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that target civilians and infrastructure. It highly commends Security Council Resolution 2624 (2022) designating the Houthi group a "terrorist organization" and banning the continued supply of weapons to Yemen, while at the same time renewing its full and unconditional support for Yemen's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity ;

13-The Conference calls for engaging in the international effort to end all manifestations of the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts, and to improve the protection and rehabilitation of children affected by conflicts, in line with relevant UN resolutions ;

14- Aware of the dangerous repercussions of climate change on security and stability in the Arab and African regions, the conference calls for employing all means to resolve conflicts related to water, energy and food resources through fruitful dialogue and peaceful methods in order to safeguard joint strategic security ; in this context, the conference hails the initiative of His Highness, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, called "Green Saudi Arabia", as well as the convening in Riyadh of the first ever summit on the "Green Middle East" initiative.

15- While the conference commends both the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the COP27 conference and the UAE for hosting the COP28 as a practical expression of the strategic priority of addressing climate change and achieving carbon neutrality in Africa and the Arab world, it draws attention to the alarming exacerbation of climatic changes and their repercussions including growing immigration waves and climate change driven displacement , which requires accelerating the implementation of the recommendations and resolutions stipulated in the " global Marrakesh charter on safe, regular and organized migration".



ASSOCIATION DES SENATS, SHOORA ET CONSEILS  
EQUIVALENTS D'AFRIQUE ET DU MONDE ARABE

16-The conference approves the organization of the second Arab-African Economic Forum to implement the recommendations of first Arab-African Economic Forum, which was held on 25-26 April 2018 in Rabat. In the same context, the conference approves the holding of the meeting of chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and the Arab world;

17-The conference calls for investing in the mechanisms of coordination and cooperation between Senates, Shoora and equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world and their counterparts in Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of South-South cooperation, emphasizing the importance of jointly opening up to the Association of European Senates in the field of strengthening South-North cooperation .

18. Regarding the point raised by the Chairman of the Conference at the request of some members, which concerns the status and future of the headquarters of ASSECAA 's General Secretariat in Sana'a and Addis Ababa, the Conference unanimously approved the authorization of the troika composed of H.E Enaam Mayara, Speaker of the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco, Chairman of the Association, H.E Saqr Ghabash, Speaker of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates, and H.E 18) Regarding the point raised by the Chairman of the Conference at the request of some members, which concerns the status and future of the headquarters of ASSECAA 's General Secretariat in Sana'a and Addis Ababa, the Conference unanimously approved the authorization of the troika composed of H.E Naam Mayara, Speaker of the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco, Chairman of the Association, H.E Saqr Ghabash, Speaker of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates, and H.E Agegnehu Teshager, Speaker of the House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, to assess the situation and take the appropriate decision thereon in order to ensure that the General Secretariat performs its duties to the fullest.

19- The conference affirms its full support for the efforts made by the State of Qatar in organizing and hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022 , as this highly significant event does not only represent the State of Qatar , but it is an event that all member states of the Association are actually proud of. On this occasion, the Association wishes all success for the State of Qatar in organizing this global sporting activity.





20- The participants expressed immense gratitude to the king and government of the kingdom of Morocco , and the House of Councilors in particular for the generous hospitality and warm reception accorded to delegates during their stay in the kingdom of Morocco. They further expressed utmost appreciation to the kingdom of Morocco for the genuine efforts they have made in preparing for ,and organizing this very significant meeting .

The participants finally resolved that a vote of thanks be addressed to His Majesty King, Mohammed VI, for his kind sponsorship of this meeting.

**ASSECAA General Secretariat**

**Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco**

**March 4, 2022**