

10th Conference and 11th Council Meeting of ASSECAA

Rabat , Kingdom of Morocco

20th to 21st September 2017

Final Communiqué

In response to the kind invitation of the Speaker of the House of Counselors of Kingdom of Morocco, the 10th Conference and 11th Council Meeting of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) was held at the headquarters of the House of Counselors, Rabat, Morocco from the 20th to the 21st of September, 2017.

Delegates from the following member councils/senates attended the meeting:

- - House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- Senate of Republic of Burundi
- Shoora Council of Saudi Arabia
- Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Senate of Republic of Cameroon
- Senate of Republic of Zimbabwe.
- Shoora Council of Qatar
- Council of States of the Republic of Sudan.
- House of Counselors of Morocco.
- Senate of Republic of Namibia



-Senate of Republic of Madagascar

- House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

-The Shoora council of Yemen was represented by Yemen's ambassador in Morocco.

Also in attendance as observers were the following:

- Shoora council of Maghreb Union

-Arab Parliamentary Union.

- Arab Maghreb Union



The conference was held under the supreme auspices of His Majesty, Mohammed VI, King of the Kingdom of Morocco

At the opening ceremony, welcome speeches were delivered on the occasion by:

- H.E Abdul-Hakeem Bin Chamash , Speaker of the House of Counselors of Morocco.
- H.E Al-habeeb Almaleki , Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco.
- H.E Dr. Omar Suleiman , Speaker of the Council of States of Sudan , and rotating chairman of ASSECAA.
- Mr. Abdulwasie Yusuf Ali , Secretary General of ASSECAA

The speeches stressed the high importance of the Association in establishing robust bonds of cooperation and joint action between Africa and the Arab world. They also shed light on the challenges facing the two regions, including the acceleration of development pace, creating job opportunities and establishing democratic values and human rights, and community participation in decision-making , arresting extremism and hardline thoughts, and eliminating terrorism.

They praised the raising awareness of the importance of Afro-Arab integration, which ASSECAA is promoting through the legislatures operating in the two regions.

They further stressed the importance of expanding cooperation and coordination at all legislative and executive levels, and that such cooperation must translate into economic , trade and investment activities, given the fact that the world of today is seeking to further common interests and exchange benefits .

After the opening session, day one activities got started, with the Secretary General of ASSECAA presenting the General Secretariat's annual report for the past period, detailing the activities and programs undertaken by the General Secretariat since ASSECAA's ninth Conference held in Khartoum, the capital city of the Republic of Sudan.

The report also involved a set of proposals that will contribute tremendously to enabling the General Secretariat perform its functions in such a way that helps it achieve its aspirations for enhancing joint cooperation between the two regions.

Afterwards, the conference resolved into committees to study the proposals submitted by the General Secretariat and then present the necessary recommendations thereon to the Conference. These are:

- Task-force on Security and Peace & economic and political affairs.
- Committee on Budget and Administrative affairs.
- Final communiqué Drafting Committee.

Moreover, heads of delegations of member councils also had their meeting to consider a number of issues and proposals placed on its agenda.

On Day 2, September 21st , 2017 , heads of delegations delivered their speeches , which all reflected their keenness on enhancing ASSECAA's performance and promoting its stature in such a way that goes beyond parliamentary and legislative coordination and cooperation between member Councils as to include directing the executive authorities in member countries to give the issue of cooperation between Arabs and Africans a strategic and practical dimension that translates into joint cooperation and common action.

They also touched on a number of issues of common interest to Arab and African countries, most important of which are boosting cooperation in all spheres,



particularly in economic and development fields, encouraging trade exchange and investment, exploiting the available resources, fighting poverty , unemployment , terrorism and extremism, and getting involved with the international community in the efforts at overcoming the effects of climate change.

The Conference then considered and approved the reports from the said committees. The budget committee report provides for the approval of the General Secretariat's budget for the years 2017, 218.

At the end of the meeting, the conference came up with the following recommendations and resolutions:

1-The conference approved the recommendations from the budget and administrative committee, the task-forces on peace and conflict resolution and economic and political affairs, as well as the minutes of the meeting of heads of delegations and member councils, which included several issues, including the renewal of the term of office of the Secretary General and the two Assistant Secretaries General for another term of three years. The conference also extended its utmost gratitude to the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for its generous support in temporarily hosting the Head Quarter of ASSECAA and officially request the government of Ethiopia to continue hosting the Head Quarter until such a time when the situation in Yemen becomes normal.

2- The Task-force on Peace and Conflict Resolution presented its report that involved a number of proposals, including the proposed formation of a standing committee on gender, and providing the necessary potentials to enable the Task-force promote its activities. The conference particularly approved the recommendations from the budget and administrative committees on the General Secretariat's closing accounts and its budgets for the years 2017, 2018.

3- The Conference stressed the importance of regularly holding ASSECAA's periodic meetings, urging member countries to cooperate in providing venues for such activities.

4-The conference stressed the importance that ASSECAA should continue to fulfill the task of making efforts at enhancing Afro-Arab efforts at bolstering common



action in the two regions in order to confront the challenges facing them, foremost among which are fighting corruption, enhancing development, creating job opportunities, spreading the values of tolerance, and combating all forms of extremism and terrorism.

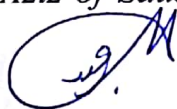
5-The conference affirmed the importance that ASSECAA should continue supporting the principles of bicameralism as a system that proved efficient in terms of achieving peace and stability and broadening the base of popular participation.

6-The Conference adopts the notions and ideas stated in the Speech delivered by H.E Abdulhakeem Bin Chamash , which are related to the fact that ASSECAA must pay special attention to the issue of climate change, in addition to forming a scientific team of experts to be tasked with drawing up a road map to be utilized by Arab and African countries in defending their own interests during forthcoming international conferences on climate change, given that these countries are among the world regions most affected by climate change. In this respect, the conference confirms its commitment to the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Climate change, calling all countries, including major world powers, to respect their obligations set forth in the Paris Agreement. It rejected any calls for shirking such commitments and pledges stated in the Paris accord.

7-The conference affirmed the importance of supporting the principles of good governance and human rights, and empowering women to get involved in executive and legislative institutions, and giving them the full opportunity of engaging in development.

8-The conference stressed the importance of supporting the government of the Republic of Burundi in its endeavor to achieve national peace on its territories and preventing foreign interventions in its internal affairs.

9-The conference condemns the mass genocide which is still being committed against Myanmar's Rohingya minority and calls upon the international community to urgently intervene to stop such atrocious practices against them and to providing humanitarian assistance to the victims. In this regard, the conference expressed utmost appreciation and immense gratitude to all Arab, African and Islamic countries, among others, especially the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosque, King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, for offering humanitarian aid to the



Rohingya displaced people to mitigate their suffering, urging the international committee to take further humanitarian initiatives in support of such people.

10-The participants expressed immense gratitude to the king and government of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the House of Counselors in particular for the generous hospitality and warm reception accorded 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.

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco

September 21, 2017



Abdelhakim N. Y. 