



Kingdom of Morocco
Parliament
House of Counselors

Final Communiqué from the Afro-Arab Parliamentary, Economic Forum

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco

April 25-26, 2018

We, the speakers and representatives of national parliaments, and participants in the Afro-Arab parliamentary , economic forum : for building integrated model for Economic Cooperation” , held at the headquarters of the House of Counselors in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco from 25-26 April 2018, under the chairmanship of Abdulhakim Binchamch, the chairman of ASSECAA, and in partnership with the General Confederation of Morocco’s Enterprises, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Services, and the Federation of Chambers of Agriculture of Morocco, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the UN’s Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) ;

Appreciating the pioneering role played by the Kingdom of Morocco under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI , may God bless him, in launching and supporting all development and solidarity initiatives aimed at enhancing partnership between Africa and the Arab world;

Considering the common values and denominators between Africa and the Arab world as well as the challenges facing the countries of the two regions;

Appreciating the summaries of all interventions, discussions and all reports and studies submitted to the forum by specialists and experts, especially those related to food security, economic partnerships and the role of women in enhancing economic growth and achieving sustainable development;



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We therefore call for:

-Strengthening coordination, cooperation and solidarity between African and Arab nations on the bilateral levels and enhancing regional integration mechanisms as well as means of inter-cooperation, especially in the fields of education, scientific research on food security, economic exchange and sustainable development, and continued coordination and consultation through permanent institutional channels.

-Forming partnerships that bring forth mutual benefits, and launching human and social development project dynamics by speeding up the formulation of cooperation strategies based on the values of solidarity, justice and common interests.

-Boosting joint action among governments , parliaments and the private sector within the framework of a system of harmonized and coordinated efforts to tackle the topic of food security as a strategic interlude to promising cooperation in the two regions in such a way that is closely related to the goals of sustainable development and fighting climate change.

-Reinforcing the work of Afro-Arab parliaments, especially Senates and equivalent councils, in terms of boosting their oversight over governments and their commitment to implementing national and international commitments to the achievement of food security, including by assuming their role in enacting legislation that bolster trade and economic cooperation between Africa and the Arab world.

-Motivating the private sector to invest in agriculture and food production by enacting legislation that stimulating the granting of preferential loans for investment in agriculture and granting tax and customs incentives to the private sector in such a way that encourages competitiveness, in addition to enacting legislation that supports the establishment of networks of transport and facilitating movement and transporting through common borders.



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-Encouraging African and Arab capitals to work together and increase investments aimed at creating joint and integrated projects involving state-of-the art technology in the two regions.

-Adopting sustainable and effective mechanisms that ensure the achievement of food security and enhanced nutrition and reinforcing agriculture, while, at the same time, encouraging scientific research centers on food production and development of agricultural techniques in such a way that enables the two regions overcome the effects of climate change, desertification, rainwater scarcity and other climatic factors.

- Setting out a unified Afro-Arab proposal on the issue of immigration while approving a global charter for organized and safe immigration during the international forum that would be held in December in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco.

-Eliminating all economic and cultural obstacles that prevent women from performing their noble tasks of achieving national transformation and construction by setting out priority policies and measures necessary for enabling and supporting women entrepreneurs in African and Arab nations.

-Empowering women and casting light on the importance of national, regional and international activities to enhance women initiatives and reinforcing their competitiveness, in addition to networking among Arab and African businesswomen and supporting economic institutions.

-laying down an integrated, sustainable framework to encourage women investments and working towards formulating Arab and African women manual on enhancing project financing opportunities and enhancing their financial capacities and organizing training courses for women workforce.

-Enhancing coordination and communication between parliaments and federations of chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture and providing them



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with updated information on food security and building bridges of communication between these bodies and the regional and international agencies concerned with food security to ensure seriousness in following up this crucial issue. To this end, the participants announce the establishment of the following:

- 1-The Parliamentary Network on Food Security in Africa and the Arab world.
- 2-The Parliamentary Network on Businessmen and women in Africa and the Arab world.

For the purpose of activating such two dynamics, the participants to this forum entrusted the House of Counselors of Morocco to coordinate with the structures of ASSECAA in terms of exerting efforts in this regard, and following up the proposal of regional parliaments in Latin America and the Caribbean by involving the Afro-Arab dynamic in line with international efforts aimed at holding the constituent conference of parliamentary networks on food security in Madrid in October 2018.

-Making this forum a springboard for periodic joint action to further deepen discussion and finding solutions to the socio-economic issues and challenges facing Africa and the Arab world.