



**Final communiqué from the International Seminar on "Parliaments
and Food Security Challenges"**
Rabat Declaration on Food Security
November 1, 2019

We, heads and representatives of regional and continental parliamentary unions, and national parliaments in Africa, the Arab world, Latin American and the Caribbean, and the participants in the international seminar on "Parliaments and Food Security Challenges", hosted by the House of Coucilor of the Kingdom of Morocco on October 31- November 1, 2019, under the chairmanship of H.E Abdelhakeem Benchamach, Chairman of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World (ASSECAA) , in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

Appreciating highly the pioneering role played by the Kingdom of Morocco, led by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, in launching and supporting all developmental and solidarity initiatives aimed at consolidating partnership between the Arab and African regions, foremost among them the initiative for adapting Africa agriculture to climate change, termed as "Triple A", launched by his Majesty at the Climate Summit "COP 22";

Appraising conclusions from the interventions of speakers and representatives of parliaments, as well as the studies and reports presented during the seminar by experts and specialists, mainly those related to the impact of conflicts , climate change, migrant flows and displacement on , food security of children, women and the marginalized groups;

Recalling the commitments made by heads and representatives of parliaments , as well as the positions they expressed during the global



summit against hunger and malnutrition in Madrid, Spain from 29-30 October, 2018, during which they expressed concern over the delay in achieving the second goal of sustainable development (SDG2) as indicated by relevant studies and reports despite all the appeals and efforts made;

Aware of our roles, as parliamentarians, of the global efforts at the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG2 pertaining to the eradication of hunger by 2030, achievement of food security and improved nutrition for all and boosting sustainable agriculture;

We therefore commit to:

Strengthening coordination, cooperation, and South-South solidarity between Africa ,the Arab world, Latin America, and the Caribbean at the bilateral levels, boosting regional integration mechanisms, ways of intra-cooperation, especially on the spheres of education, scientific research, possession and transfer of technology , enhancement of food security, economic exchange, sustainable development, and sustained coordination through permanent institutional channels;

-Building joint, beneficial partnerships , launching dynamics of human and social development projects by expediting the formulation of cooperation strategies based on the values of solidarity, justice and common interests;

-Backing the action of the United Nations agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Food Program (WFP), in association with all countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mainly SDG2 related to eliminating hunger and undernourishment and boosting sustainable agricultural production by 2030;

-Enhancing dialogue among parliamentarians at the national, regional and international levels to share experiences and best practices and eliminate the obstacles they face, in addition to promoting broader cooperation, consolidating cooperation with strategic partners, including with civil



society organizations, universities, research centers and the private sector for the purpose of realizing SDG2 and enforcing the right to adequate and healthy food and nutrition;

Boosting the business of Arab, African and Latino parliaments, particularly senates, and equivalent councils with their various components and competencies, with the goal of bolstering their oversight over government performance, and their commitment to fulfilling national and international obligations on food security, and assuming their role in enacting legislation in such a manner that underpins economic and trade cooperation between Africa, the Arab world, Latin America, and South countries in general;

-Creating South-South parliamentary observatory for food security with the aim of enhancing communication and coordination among parliaments and federations of commerce, industry and agriculture , providing them with observed information and variables on food security , building up bridges between such bodies and concerned food security agencies at the regional and international level to maintain seriousness and vigilance in terms of following upon such a significant issue;

We call upon governments, the private sector and all concerned institutions in our countries to :

-Enhance joint action among governments, parliaments and the private sector through a plethora of coordinated and harmonized efforts to deal with the issue of food security as an essentially strategic interlude to a promising cooperation between the two regions in a way closely related to the Sustainable Development Goals and fighting climate change,

-Motivate the private sector to invest in agriculture and scientific research on relevant issues by enacting laws incentivizing the granting of preferential loans to investments in agriculture, and customs and tax incentives to the private sector in such a manner that help it compete, in addition to making laws that support the establishment of transportation networks, and facilitate movement and transport across common borders;

-Adopt effective, sustainable mechanisms that ensure food security and improved nutrition , upgrade agriculture, encourage scientific research centers on food production, and develop sustainable and climate change-



sensitive agricultural methods so as to overcome the impacts of climate change, desertification, rain water scarcity, and other climatic factors;

To achieve such goals , we entrust the chairmanship of the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco , which heads the parliamentary network for food security in Africa and Arab World, to coordinate with intercontinental and regional parliamentary unions in Africa, Arab World, Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO, and other relevant organisations in terms of embarking on the fulfillment of such obligations and following upon the implementation of relevant recommendations.

