

Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World (PNFSNAA)



**The Association of Senates,
Shoora and Equivalent Councils
in Africa and Arab World**



Establishment

The Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and Arab world (PNFSNAA) was established, within the framework of ASSECAA, in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the " Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum " which was organized by ASSECAA and the House of Counselors of Morocco in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 25 and 26 April 2018.

The network was officially launched during its foundational meeting in which its constituent charter was approved and resolved that Morocco will take over the chairmanship of the Network; this was during the meeting held in Rabat, Morocco from 17-18 January, 2019 and organized by the House of councilors of Morocco in partnership with ASSECAA and FAO. The formation of the Network's Executive Bureau was finalized and its members were elected at th e Network's first meeting that took place on the sidelines of the global seminar held in Morocco under the slogan "Parliaments & Food Security Challenges " from October 30- November 1, 2019.



Nature and functions of the Network

The Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World (PNFSNAA) is a forum for consultation and exchange of information and experiences on strategies related to food security and nutrition, as well as a space for raising awareness and submitting relevant studies and proposals.

Through its discussions and proposals, the Network shall engage in addressing the issues related to food security and nutrition and works to explore ways of engagement and representation in the relevant global parliamentary effort.

Objectives of the Network :

The network aims to:

- Encourage the exchange of information, experience, discussion, dialogue and consultation on strategic issues related to food security and nutrition in the African and Arab regions, and benefiting from international experiences.**
- Activate and strengthen the role of parliamentarians in exploring ways and means of promoting Afro-Arab economic cooperation from a strategic, participatory and integrated perspective, based on strengthening economic, trade and humanitarian relations between Africa and the Arab world.**
- Make concerted efforts to find appropriate solutions through in-depth studies of the nature of food-related problems and directing various economic sectors towards investing in food security and nutrition.**
- Promote investment in sustainable food systems with high productivity utilizing available and potential technology to boost productivity and increase incomes of farmers in the African and Arab countries.**



Network Membership:

The Network consists of representatives of Senates, Shoora and equivalent councils in Africa and Arab world. Its membership is open to national parliaments and regional unions in Africa and the Arab world. In addition, national parliaments and unions at the international level can gain an observer status after an application is presented to the executive bureau.

Network's Executive Bureau:

The Executive Bureau of the Network consists , at present, of the following :

- **H.E. Naam Miyara**, Speaker of the House of Counselors of Morocco and chairman of ASSECAA : Chairman of the Network.
- **Dr. Jihad Abdullah Al-Fadhil**, Second Deputy Chairperson of the Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain: Deputy-Chairman.
- **Senator. Khoabane Theko**, member of the Senate of Kingdom of Lesotho: Rapporteur for African countries
- **Dr. Bashir Al-Howsh**, member of the High Council of State of Libya : Rapporteur for Arab countries.
- **ASSECAA General Secretariat** : Network Secretariat



Programs / Events organized by the Network

- **Virtual Meeting of the Executive Office of the Network** : this meeting was held by the House of Councilors of Morocco and ASSECAA General Secretariat on 16 December, 2021 .
- **Virtual meeting on the topic: “The impact of the COVID -19 pandemic on food security in the African and Arab regions”** :this meeting was organized by the House of Councilors of Morocco, and the General Secretariat of ASSECAA in partnership with FAO on 17 June 2020 via Video Conference.
- **1st Meeting of the Network & International Seminar on “Parliaments and Food Security Challenges”** : this meeting was organized by the House of Councilors of Morocco and the General Secretariat of ASSECAA in partnership with FAO on 30 October - 1 November 2019 , in Rabat, Morocco .



Activities in which the Network participated

The network participated in the following meetings:

- High Level Dialogue on Nutrition, held in Maseru, kingdom of Lesotho on 23-24 March, 2023.
- Pre-Summit Meeting: Developments and challenges towards the Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition , organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on 30 November,2022.
- Regional seminar series on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights; Arabic speaking countries regional seminar, organized by the United Nations, 8-9 November 2022, Beirut, Lebanon.
- Virtual meeting on "Parliamentary action on tackling gender inequality to achieve food security and improved nutrition for all" , organized by FAO together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on 27 October 2022, within the framework of the preparatory events for the Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, to be held in 2023.
- Thematic session on "Parliamentary action to promote improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all" , organized by FAO and IISD on 28 September,2022.
- In May 2022, the Network took part in the virtual coordinating meeting involving Mr. Jean Leonard Touadi, FAO's Special Coordinator for Parliamentary Networks, with a view to discussing the ways of engaging Arab parliaments and legislative assemblies in the global efforts at food security systems. At the meeting, H. E. Dr. Jihad Al-Fadhel, the Network's Deputy Chairman, was selected as a major partner in the preparatory events towards the Second Global Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition scheduled for 2023.



- **Virtual Parliamentary Dialogues: Food Security and Nutrition in the time of Covid-19** , jointly organized by FAO and AECID on 22 September 2021.
- **Virtual Parliamentary Dialogues on Food Security and Nutrition in times of COVID-19 – 3 Sub-regional Dialogue** dedicated to Parliamentarians from Arabic countries, organized by FAO and AECID on 1 April 2021.
- **Virtual Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue**, organized jointly by ESCWA, FAO, WFP, WHO, IFAD, and AOAD on 29 March 2021.
- **Virtual event on “The role of parliamentarians in enhancing responsible investments in agriculture for the transition towards more sustainable food systems in Africa”**, organized jointly by FAO, IISD, EALA, Pan-African Parliament and ECOWAS Parliament on the 15 December 2020 .
- **Global exchange meeting with parliamentarians : Developing the Modular Training Program on Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming** , jointly organized by IFAD and FAO on 26-27 November 2020.
- **Virtual consultative meeting on the draft Model Law on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa, Central, North and West Africa**, co-organized by FAO and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) on 17 November 2020.

Cooperation Protocols signed between the network and other organizations

- **A Cooperation Protocol was signed between the Arab Parliament and the network. This protocol is a framework for cooperation between the Arab Parliament and its competent bodies, and the Network ; it also aims at developing cooperation tools in the field of food security and nutrition in the two regions, and working together to achieve the common goals between them.**