

**ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, SHOORA AND EQUIVALENT  
COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND ARAB WORLD  
(ASSECAA)**

**Towards a robust bilateral  
Afro-Arab cooperation**



**ASSECAA Activities : A Glance**



In pursuit of the Association's objectives, there has been created a variety of work mechanisms, including the formation of several effective committees and adoption of a number of significant programmes and meetings as follows:

- Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution.
- Meeting of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Africa and Arab World.
- Annual Retreat
- Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab World.
- Study Visit Exchange Programme
- Student Exchange Programme
- Annual conference and Council Meeting.

### **Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee:**

The Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution was set up during the second Conference of the Association held in Sana'a, Yemen from 7-9 May, 2007. It was agreed that the committee holds its meetings when the need arises in any member country to deliberate upon the simmering disputes in Africa and Arab World and then present well-informed recommendations to the Conference to enable it contribute effectively to the international efforts at conflict resolution.

Accordingly, the first meeting of the committee, which was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 12-13 December, 2007, was attended by delegates from the following countries:

- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria .
- The Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- Republic of Yemen - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Republic of Burundi - Republic of Sudan - The Islamic Republic of Mauritania - Arab Republic of Egypt - The Federal Republic of Ethiopia - Kingdom of Morocco

Moreover, the second meeting was held in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi from 2-3 March, 2009. Delegates from eight member countries of the committee attended the event as follows:

- Council of the Nation of Algeria .
- The Senate of Burundi -The Federal Republic of Ethiopia -The House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - The Senate of the Kingdom of Swaziland - Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen - Council of States of the Republic of Sudan- Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria .

The committee shall continue to hold its meetings in accordance with Council resolutions to the effect.



The third meeting of the committee on peace and conflict resolution was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 23-24 February, 2013. In attendance were the following member councils/senates:

- Shoora Council of the State of Qatar
- Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- Shoora Council of Saudi Arabia
- Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen
- Shoora Council of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco
- Senate of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Council of States of Sudan
- Senate of the Republic of Gabon
- Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Senate of the Republic of Burundi
- House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Senate of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Also present were representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the African Union, and the Arab Maghreb Union.

All committee meetings had discussed the most important issues as well as the conflicts that pose threats to peace, security and stability in Arab and African countries experiencing wars and disputes. Chief among these issues are the smoldering conflicts in Somalia, Darfur, Great lakes Region and Congo, in addition to piracy, and most recently, the political settlement in Yemen, as well as Ethiopia's experiment in federalism and conflict management.





### **International Seminar on National Reconciliations House of Councilors ,Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco 17-18 January ,2019.**

Under the auspices of the House of councilors of Morocco and in partnership with the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Council in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) and the National Council of human rights of Morocco, the international seminar on national reconciliations that led to the achievement of peace ,security and stability was organized at the headquarters of House of councilors of Morocco from 17-18 January ,2019. The seminar was attended by a number of presidents\ speakers and representatives of member and non-members councils of the Association, as well as representatives of regional and international parliamentary organizations and unions, ambassadors of several countries in the Kingdom of Morocco and a number of Moroccan government officials, in addition to experts on national reconciliations and transitional justice. The seminar was enriched with interventions and several presentations by experts from several countries, who reviewed their experiences in the field of transitional justice and national reconciliation. The presentations were centered on the experiences of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, El Salvador, Rwanda, South Africa, Bahrain, Latin America and other countries that experienced conflicts, disputes and political transformations in which transitional justice and national reconciliation have been the only way out of these crises and conflicts, which ultimately led to the achievement of security, stability, economic and social development in those countries. The meeting extensively deliberated upon the following main topics:

- National reconciliation from the perspective of transitional justice.
  - Comparative experiences.
  - Reconciliation experiences: results and challenges.
  - The role of parliaments in promoting reconciliation paths.
  - The role of national institutions in reconciliation paths and guarantees of non-repetition.
- On the sidelines of this seminar, a meeting for the heads of delegations of Senates, Shoora and equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world was held during which the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World was officially launched. During the meeting, the constituent charter of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World was adopted as a basic document of the seminar . It was also resolved that Morocco will take over the chairmanship of the Network .The meeting also issued a declaration called "Rabat Declaration on the Experiences of national reconciliations".





## **1st Meeting of Parliamentary Network for Food Security in Africa and Arab World & International Seminar on "Parliaments and Food Security Challenges"**

The world is undergoing a range of economic, social, developmental, environmental and geopolitical challenges, which have direct implications on the needs of decent life of the planet's people, most critical of which is their food security. Studies and scientific researches indicate that the world will witness ,during the next 50 years, acute shortage of food production to meet the growing needs of its population, and that the rate of increase in food production is not commensurate with the global population growth. In addition, various studies and international reports confirm that 821 million people across the world suffer from hunger and undernourished, of whom 246.4 million live in Africa and more than 21 million in the Arab world .

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the number of people suffering from food shortages or chronic hunger has increased over the past three years. Between 2016 and 2017 alone, the number increased by about 17 million people. The latest global report on food crises, released in April ,2019 by the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP), indicated that the figure of 113 million people facing food crises is down slightly from the 124 million figure for 2017. However, the number of people in the world facing food crises has remained well over 100 million in the last three years, and the number of countries affected has risen. Moreover, an additional 143 million people in another 42 countries are just one step away from facing acute hunger. The same report indicted that nearly two-thirds of those facing acute hunger are in just 8 countries, five of which are in Africa and two Arab countries. In 17 countries, acute hunger either remained the same or increased. Food security has been one of the main objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Goal 2 ,which calls for the eradication of hunger , entitles collective and comprehensive action to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition, including conflict, instability, and the effects of climate change such as drought, floods, desertification, water scarcity, disease and epidemics. Considering these challenges and all these indicators, among others, which constitute a serious alarm bell for humanity, including the regions of Africa and the Arab world ; the need to raise the issue of food security - and urgently - on the development agenda of the Arab and African regions in light of the emergence of new challenges with the widening food gap the world experienced ,



and in the framework of activating the resolutions and recommendations of the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum organized by the House of counselors of Morocco on 25 and 26 April 2018, particularly those related to the effort to contribute to global efforts related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the second objective related to Eradicate hunger by 2030 aiming at providing food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, the House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Association of Senates, Shoora and equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World organized in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the first meeting of the Parliamentary Network on Food Security in Africa and the Arab World on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, as well as the international seminar entitled "Parliaments and Food Security Challenges" on 31 October - 1 November 2019 at the House of Councilors in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. The seminar had witnessed a wide Arab, African, regional and international presence ; It was attended by delegates from member and non-member states of the Association , as well as representatives of regional and international parliamentary unions, ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in the Kingdom of Morocco as well as many ministers and deputies in the Kingdom of Morocco. During the first meeting of the Network, the formation of the Executive Office of the Parliamentary Network in Africa and the Arab World was completed. The meeting focused on discussing the most important issues related to food security and the role of parliaments in achieving it. A number of important papers were presented by FAO which focused on important topics such as the role of parliamentary networks in achieving SDG2 , overall objectives of the Guidelines for Responsible Land Tenure Governance , Principles of rational investment in agriculture and food systems , and Lessons learned and future prospects towards food security through the Parliamentary Network for Food Security in Africa and the Arab World .The International seminar on "Parliaments and Food Security Challenges" , was enriched with several interventions, in which participants stressed the importance of taking bolder measures to address food security and face challenges posed by climate change, as well as the importance of security and stability, and that parliamentarians should play their role of enacting laws that ensure achieving food security. Several important papers and interventions were discussed, including Status of Food Security and Nutrition in the World in 2019 , Global experiences of parliamentary networks on food security and their role in achieving SDG2 (A review of the experiments of Latin America and the Caribbean, Central America and the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Andean Parliament) , Impact of conflict on food security and nutrition and Climate change and food security. Rabat declaration on food security was issued at the end of the seminar.





## Meetings of Women Parliamentarians

-The final communiqué from ASSECAA's third conference, which was held in Khartoum, Sudan from 24-26 November 2008, included a recommendation that women should be encouraged to get engaged in parliamentary life and to attend the activities organized for member countries by the Association. The conference further recommended that meetings be organized for women in member councils in the framework of the Association's objectives.

Thus, the first meeting of women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab World, which was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 6-7 October, 2009, was attended by women delegates representing 24 Arab and African countries. Several international organizations, such as the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) and International Democratic Institute also took part in the meeting.

The second meeting, which was at the committee level was held in Khartoum, Sudan from 27-28 September, 2010, organized by the Association in collaboration with the Council of States of Sudan. Similar meetings shall continue to hold in the future.





- **The Second meeting of women parliamentarians , Khartoum, Sudan, 18-19 March, 2012** ; The meeting was held in cooperation with the council of States of Sudan. It was attended by women parliamentarians from 17 Arab and African countries, in addition to the participation of the representative of the African Union (SADO).

- **The Third meeting of the executive committee of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world, Khartoum, Sudan, February 8,2014.** On the sidelines of this meeting a workshop on the Impacts of illegal immigration from Afro-Arab countries to foreign countries was held in February 9,2014. This meeting was organized by ASSECAA in cooperation with council of states of Sudan.

- **Meeting of the Committee on Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab world , Cairo-Egypt , 8th-9th February, 2015** . ASSECAA's committee on women parliamentarians organized a conference on the enhancement of relations among women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world in Cairo, Egypt from 8th -9th February, 2015. The conference, was hosted by the League of Arab States ,Women, Family and Child Department.

- The Association organized a meeting of women parliamentarians on the sidelines of the African -Arab parliamentary Economic Forum, which was held in, Rabat, Morocco, from 25 to 26 April 2018. Several work papers were presented on the role of women in economic growth and sustainable development.

All these meetings, which involved women parliamentarians from member and non-member councils, discussed the issue of promoting and encouraging women's education and helping womenfolk gain skills and experiences in order to enable them engage heavily in national development. Participants stressed the importance of enacting gender equality laws, encouraging women's participation in politics , enhancing the role of women leaders in decision-making at the legislative level, achieving socio-economic development and contributing to the establishment of peace and security in Africa and Arab world.

In the framework of enhancing the economic and development cooperation between Africa and Arab world, which is one of the fundamental objectives of the Association, the first meeting of chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and Arab world was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 25-27 October, 2008 under the patronage of the Association and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). The meeting was attended by delegates from 11 Arab and African countries, in addition to representatives from the Arab League, the US Export Promotion Council and the British Trade Promotion Council.

The meeting came up with several recommendations, most important of which were the encouragement of chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and Arab world, the revitalization of agreements on regional trade cooperation, and the enhancement of regional bilateral communication and training courses on trade and investments.

The second meeting was held in Manama, Bahrain from 27-28 October, 2010 under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Some 14 delegations representing Arab and African chambers of commerce as well as ASSECAA's member councils attended the event. Other delegates from a number of relevant organizations in Asia and the Arab world attended the meeting as observers.

The meeting came up with several resolutions, most significant of which was the setting up of a panel of international legal experts and consultants to consider the draft treaty on economic cooperation presented to the meeting by the General Secretariat of ASSECAA.

Further, the meeting stressed the importance of proceeding with the annual meetings of chambers of commerce and industry, as well as engaging and coordinating with the governmental investment apparatuses in the future. It recommended that trade exhibitions, workshops and field visits be organized on the sidelines of such events.

It is worth mentioning that invitations to such meetings are usually addressed to all chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and Arab world, including member countries of the Association.





The third meeting of chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and the Arab world was held in Rabat, Morocco on April 29-30, 2012, with the Afro-Arab legislators and businessmen forum “Investing in Africa makes sense” taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on August 1-2, 2015.

Further, ASSECAA’s General Secretariat, in cooperation with the House of Counselors of Morocco, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized the Afro-Arab Parliamentary, Economic Forum in Rabat, Morocco from 25-26 April, 2018. The forum, held under the theme “For Building an Integrated Model for Economic Cooperation”, was attended by representatives from Arab, regional and international organizations, including Federations and chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and Arab world, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Arab and African parliaments, Latin America Parliament, Central America parliament, the Andean Parliament, the Arab Parliamentary Union, the African Parliamentary Union, ECOWAS Parliament, and the Arab Maghreb Union.

These meetings are characterized by high participation on the part of non-member countries, and are devoted to the discussion of ventures meant for strengthening business infrastructure and improving services in a way that drives investment in all fields, including industry, agriculture, services and other sectors. All such ventures do clear the way for a future trend towards economic, touristic, and investment integration between Arab and African countries.





## Retreats

Now that the Association seeks to exchange views among members regarding a wide range of issues related to parliamentary cooperation and the enhancement of its mechanisms, and coordination of positions towards various economic, political and cultural issues in order to bolster relations between Africa and Arab world, the first retreat of the Association was held in the Nigerian Capital, Abuja, from 5-6 June, 2006. The main theme of the retreat was " The Role of Legislatures in Nation Building and International Cooperation".

The second retreat was held in the Dead Sea region in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 21-22 October, 2007 under the motto of " The Role of Legislatures in Pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. The other sub-themes of the retreat focused on several issues such as "Challenges of poverty and famine in the third world" , "Contributions of Education and Democracy to the Achievement of Development and socio-economic and political Stability", "National Policy, Legislation , and Orientations on the maintenance of Peace and Advancement", and "The Role of Legislature in Deepening Democratic Awareness, Supporting National Institutions and Enhancing Social and Economic Development".

Furthermore, the third retreat was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 5-6 May 2008. The theme was "The Role of the Legislature in Conflict Resolution, Reconciliation and National Development". The sub-themes of the retreat were " Legislatures as a symbol of National coherence , Constitutional Order and Local Peace", " Contribution of the Legislature to the resolution of socio-economic and Political Conflicts and Tensions in Modern Nation States", "The Role of Legislature in National Reconciliation, Cultural Harmony , Respect for Human Rights, and the Enhancement of the Role of Women in the Achievement of National Development", and "The necessity of Arms Control Processes in the Regions of Africa and Arab World".

It has been a normal practice that the themes of Retreats are usually chosen by the General Secretariat in consultation with the host country.



The Association also held the following retreats :

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Retreat of ASSECAA, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia 24-25 Sept, 2011; Themes discussed were :
  - “The Role of Second Chambers in Ensuring political and socio-economic justice to establish peace and security”.
  - “Strategies for successful developing economies-lessons from Ethiopia”.
  - “Impacts of globalization and current financial crises in the west on economic development in Africa and the Arab world and ways out “.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Retreat of the Association of Senates Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, Bujumbura, Burundi , from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. The meeting was themed "Afro-Arab Cultural Renaissance: Contributions of Parliaments in Cultural Exploration, Preservation, Promotion and Development"
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Retreat of the Association of Senates Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, Amman ,Jordan, 24 - 25 September, 2014 ;The retreat had its theme as “ The role of parliaments in combating corruption, conflicts and promoting regional integration “ .
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Retreat of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World , 26 – 27 November 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia ; The Retreat had its theme as “The Role of Parliamentarians in Combating Climate change in Africa and the Arab World regions”.



- The 8th Retreat of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), 20 - 21 May ,2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia ; The meeting deliberated upon the following three key themes : -

- Good governance
- Responsibilities of the present generations in ensuring peace and security for the future generations.
- Sustainable development.

Retreats usually involve speakers and representatives of member councils as well as elite of thinkers, scholars, experts and political analysts, who present a knowledge framework pertaining to specific issues that concern ASSECCAA - one of the topmost priorities of parliamentary diplomacy set for the association. Retreats are among the most expandable activities that form a solid ground for common cooperation among member states in such a manner that sets for forging political and economic grouping deemed instrumental in attaining ASSECCAA's objectives. They also represent a veritable forum for exchanging views among senates/councils as well as second chambers in member countries with an aim to overcome the problems facing the international comity of nations, while adopting dialogue as the optimum means for resolving simmering conflicts between the North and the South. Also, during such events, members used to share ideas and experiences with sister organizations that usually attend ASSECCAA's activities at the General Secretariat's invitation.

- The Association also held its 9th Retreat in Bujumbura, Burundi, 18 - 20 September, 2022. The meeting discussed two main topics: " The repercussions of the Corona pandemic on Arab and African Economies as well as government response " and " The Impacts of the Russian-Ukrainian war on supply chains and the prices of food and energy ".

-ASSECCAA's 10th Retreat was held in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Eswatini from May 11 to 12, 2023. The meeting discussed two significant topics- " The successive global economic crises and their effects on African and Arab economies " and " The Significance of Green Economy in Supporting Sustainable Development in Africa and the Arab World ".



## Student Exchange Programme

Out of the belief that education is the optimum means of cultural exchange and enhancement of social interaction among nations, the Council of the Association resolved to adopt the student exchange programme in order to achieve this end.

Furthermore ASSECAA's conferences recommended that the council urge all member countries to effectively participate in the encouragement of the programme that seeks to boost the process of exchanging students by means of encouraging member states to send students to the universities and institutes of their counterpart countries in such a means that would create a generation believing in the importance of cooperation and joint action between Africa and Arab world.



## **Study Visit Exchange Programme**

This programme was approved in 2006 with an aim to exchange visits and experiences among ASSECAA's member councils in such a manner that creates a common thinking and helps the understanding of democratic ambience. The programme further aims at enabling members to seriously get acquainted with the nature of experiences that may benefit the participants and enhance cooperation among member councils.

Over the past period, many visits were undertaken by member councils as follows:

In 2006, several member countries undertook the programme proposed by the General Secretariat of the Association. For instance, a delegation from the Council of the Nation of Algeria visited the Shoora Council of Qatar, while the Shoora Council of Bahrain made a visit to the House of Federation of Ethiopia. Also, a delegation from the House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan paid a visit to the Senate of the Republic of Gabon, while delegates from the House of Federation of Ethiopia visited the National Council of Provinces of the Republic of South Africa. In the same vein, a delegation from the Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen undertook a visit to the Senate of the Republic of Burundi.

In 2007, a number of member countries welcomed the programme proposed by the General Secretariat and embarked on implementing it. Actually, the House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan made a visit to the Senate of the Republic of Burundi, while a delegation from the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria paid a visit to the Senate of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

In 2008, a delegation from the Senate of Burundi visited both the Shoora Council of Yemen and the House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, while a delegation from the Senate of the Republic of Namibia visited the House of Dignitaries of Jordan.

In 2009, a delegation, headed by the Speaker of the National Council of South Africa, visited the Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen and was briefed on the course of action at ASSECAA's headquarters. Further, a delegation, headed by Speaker of the Shoora Council of Bahrain, visited the House of Federation of Ethiopia. Also, a delegation, headed by the Speaker of the Council of the Nation of the Sultanate of Oman, visited the Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen and the headquarters of the Association. A delegation from the Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain visited both the Shoora Council of Yemen as well as ASSECAA's headquarters.



## ASSECAA's Annual Conferences and Council Meetings

The Association was first established when a number of heads of second chambers in Africa and Arab world met in Nouakchott, capital of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, from 21-23 February, 2001, and deliberated upon the idea of setting up an outfit that was not given a name at the time. Then, several heads of senates, Shoora and equivalent councils in Africa and Arab world held a meeting in Rabat, Morocco from 6-7 June, 2002, and agreed on the establishment of an entity called "The Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World (ASSECAA).

- The Association held its first conference in Sana'a, Yemen from 25-29 April, 2004, during which the establishment of the Association was declared.
- The Association's Secretary General and the two Assistant Secretaries General were elected during the first council meeting that coincided with the holding of the first conference.
- The second council meeting of the Association was held in Sana'a, Yemen from 9-10 November, 2005.
- The Republic of Yemen hosted the second conference and third council meeting of the Association from 7-9 May, 2007.
- The while the third conference and fourth council meeting of the Association were held in Khartoum, Sudan from 24-26 November 2008.
- The fourth conference and fifth council meeting of ASSECAA were held in Rabat, Morocco from 12-13 November 2009.
- The Senate of the Republic of Gabon Organised the Fifth Conference and Sixth Council meeting of the Association in libreville Gabon from 25 to 26 Feb 2011.





- The 6<sup>th</sup> Conference and 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting were held in Bujumbura, Burundi From 22 - 23 March 2012.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Conference and 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting were held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain from 28 - 29 May 2013.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Conference and 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting took place at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 5 - 6 April 2014.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Conference and the 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting were held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 30 - 31 March 2016.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Conference and the 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting were held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco from 20 - 21 September 2017.

All these council meetings and conferences were successful by all standards in respect of attendance, enthusiasm and participation. Further, the issues discussed or the topics reviewed in the speeches and interventions of delegates indicated that the Association was greatly hopeful for playing significant roles, particularly in parliamentary diplomacy that can serve as a voice for Africa and the Arab world while advocating for issues of common interest to member and non-member countries.

- ASSECAA also held its 11<sup>th</sup> Conference and 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Rabat, Morocco from 4 - 5 March 2022. On the sidelines of this same conference, the constituent meeting of the South- South Dialogue Forum " was also organized. The meeting, which involved Arab, African, Latin America and Caribbean Parliaments, declared Rabat the capital of " South- South Cooperation



## Other ASSECAA Activities :

### 1- ASSECAA Cup of Excellence :

To encourage scientific research, ASSECAA General Secretariat held research competitions among the students of several Yemeni universities, mainly Sana'a University, University of Science and Technology and the Lebanese University. The first festival was held in 2013 at Faculty of Agriculture, Sana'a University, during which distinguished students who excelled in conducting research and studies were honored and awarded valuable prizes. The second contest was held in 2014 at Jamal Abdul Nassr hall, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University, with the winners awarded truly worthwhile prizes and their research studies published in the first and second versions of ASSECAA compendium "Vision and Achievements".

In 2017, ASSECAA Cup of Excellence contest was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and involved students from a number of Ethiopian universities, with toppers, who have their research adjudicated by a panel of seasoned varsity professors, granted inestimable awards.

### 2- ASSECAA Day festivals :

Such festivals included the following:

- ASSECAA Day for Democracy and Human Rights - Sana'a, Yemen, 2012.
- ASSECAA Day for Culture-Sana'a, Yemen, 2013.
- ASSECAA Day for peace , security and good governance - Sana'a, Yemen, 2014.
- ASSECAA Day celebration- Addis Abab, Ethiopia, May 4, 2017.



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