**“THE IMPORTANCE OF GREEN ECONOMY IN SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD”**

**By**

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This paper discusses the challenges of the current global economic crisis and its impact on Africa and the Arab world. Secondly, the paper elaborates the importance of a green economy in supporting development in Africa and the Arab world, amidst these challenges. The paper provides specific examples of green interventions and discusses the various elements and aspects of a green economy that also incorporates the circular economy principles. Thirdly, the paper discusses strengthening of the role of Parliamentarians, Senates, Shoora and equivalent Councils in addressing issues of development, particularly as it relates to the future of Afro-Arab economies in the light of the successive global economic crises and ongoing global political tension and instability.

1. **Current Global Economic crisis**

The current global economic crisis is one of the most challenging times in recent history. The pandemic hit economies hard, causing disruptions in trade, supply chains, and tourism. The Russia-Ukraine war has led to geopolitical tensions, which have significant consequences for African and Arab countries. This crisis characterised by slow recovery from the effects of COVID 19, the escalating geopolitical instability due to the Russia-Ukraine war, high energy prices, high inflation, high rates of unemployment, budget deficits and high indebtedness, increasing interest rates and economic slowdown has significant impacts on Africa and Arab countries. Africa and Arab countries are particularly vulnerable to economic shocks due to their high dependence on commodity exports, which makes them susceptible to price fluctuations in global markets. The pandemic and related restrictions have caused significant disruptions in trade and investment flows, which have negatively affected economic growth and development in these regions. Moreover, the pandemic has disproportionately impacted the informal sector and vulnerable populations, leading to increased poverty and inequality. Furthermore, the escalation of geopolitical tensions and the US-China trade conflict have had ripple effects on global trade and investment flows, creating uncertainty and volatility in financial markets. The resulting economic slowdown has further exacerbated the already challenging economic conditions in Africa and Arab countries.

High energy prices and inflation have also impacted these regions, leading to increased costs of production, and living. This has further constrained economic growth, leading to high rates of unemployment, budget deficit, and indebtedness. The increasing interest rates have also contributed to the economic slowdown in these regions.

Certainly, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the global economy, with millions of people losing their jobs and businesses shutting down. The pandemic has caused a significant decline in global trade and investment, disrupting supply chains and reducing demand for goods and services. Many African and Arab countries have been hit hard by the pandemic due to their reliance on sectors such as tourism, which have been severely impacted. The geopolitical tensions and instability caused by the Russia-Ukraine war have further worsened the economic impact of the pandemic on African and Arab countries. The conflict has led to a rise in global oil prices, which can have a mixed impact on these regions. While oil-exporting countries may benefit from higher prices, oil-importing countries may face challenges due to the increased cost of imports.

Climate change is also a significant challenge for African and Arab countries that is compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions such as the Russia-Ukraine war. Some of the challenges exacerbates by climate change include the increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves with significant health impacts, economic impacts, including reduced agricultural productivity, infrastructure damage, and increased healthcare costs, exacerbation of social tensions, including displacement, migration, and conflict over scarce resources such as water and land, and environmental impacts, including biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and desertification.

In response to these challenges, African and Arab countries have implemented various policy measures, such as monetary and fiscal policies, to mitigate the impacts of the crisis. For instance, some countries have implemented stimulus packages to support businesses and households affected by the pandemic, while others have implemented austerity measures to reduce budget deficits and debt levels. Additionally, some countries have diversified their economies away from commodity exports and invested in other sectors, such as technology and renewable energy, to promote sustainable economic growth and development. In addressing climate change, countries have implemented measures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change including promoting sustainable agriculture, investing in renewable energy, improving water management, and enhancing disaster preparedness and response.

In the context of the current global economic crisis, there are several efforts that can be explored further to promote sustainable economic growth and development in Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East. These efforts include economic diversification, infrastructure development, human capital development, regional integration, entrepreneurship and innovation, and sustainable development. By prioritizing these initiatives, policymakers can help to mitigate the impacts of the current global economic crisis and promote sustainable economic growth and development. Here are a few examples:

1. Economic diversification: Countries in these regions can explore opportunities to diversify their economies away from traditional commodity exports and invest in other sectors such as technology, renewable energy, and tourism. This can help to reduce the impact of price fluctuations in global markets and promote sustainable economic growth.
2. Infrastructure development: Investment in infrastructure development such as transport, energy, and telecommunications can help to reduce the cost of doing business, attract foreign investment, and promote regional integration. This can create new economic opportunities and increase productivity.
3. Human capital development: Investment in education, health, and skills development can help to create a skilled workforce that can drive economic growth and development. This can also help to reduce poverty and inequality by creating new job opportunities and increasing productivity.
4. Regional integration: Promoting regional integration through trade agreements, harmonization of regulations, and the creation of regional economic blocs can help to increase intra-regional trade, reduce transaction costs, and promote economic growth and development.
5. Entrepreneurship and innovation: Encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation can help to create new businesses and industries, leading to economic growth and development. This can be achieved through policies that support small and medium-sized enterprises, provide access to finance, and promote innovation.
6. Sustainable development: Investing in sustainable development can help to address the challenges of climate change, reduce environmental degradation, and promote social and economic development. This can be achieved through policies that promote sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and conservation of natural resources.

In a nutshell, the current global economic crisis has significant impacts on Africa and Arab countries, which are already facing multiple economic challenges. The pandemic and related restrictions, geopolitical tensions, trade conflicts, high energy prices, inflation, unemployment, budget deficit, and indebtedness have all contributed to the economic slowdown in these regions. However, policy measures aimed at mitigating the impacts of the crisis have been implemented, and there is a need for continued efforts to promote sustainable economic growth and development.

1. **The importance of a Green Economy Approach in addressing the economic crisis in Africa and Arab States.**

The three concepts of green growth, green economy and sustainable development are interrelated. According to the OECD, “Green growth means fostering economic growth and development, whilst ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our wellbeing relies”. Green growth provides a practical and flexible approach for achieving concrete, measurable progress across the economic and environmental aspects of development, while taking full account of the social consequences of greening the growth. There are several principles that define and govern the green growth approach to development. Key among these is sustained economic growth; resource use efficiency; climate change response through adaptation and mitigation; creation of decent green jobs; and human wellbeing and social inclusiveness.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines a green economy as one that results in “improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities”. A green economy has three main pillars, namely: Resource efficiency for achieving greater wellbeing whilst reducing resource use and emissions; Low carbon and climate-resilient development that encompasses low emission and/or climate-resilient economic growth; and social inclusion with a focus on improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in the development process. This means that the green economy should improve the ability, opportunity, and dignity of the disadvantaged to participate in the development process. Sustainable development has three pillars, namely economic, social, and environmental, and is underpinned by five dimensions as articulated in the 2030 Agenda - Planet, Prosperity, People, Peace, and Partnership. Green growth is believed to be the requirement and ingredient, for green economy and sustainable development. It is argued that green economy cannot be achieved without championing green growth first. Green growth is, therefore, considered as the path to achieve a green economy and ultimately, sustainable development.

Clearly from the related definitions above, a green economy emphasizes sustainable development, focusing on resource use efficiency, natural resource conservation, social inclusion, inclusive job creation, low-emission development, and resilience.

Promoting a green economy in North Africa, the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa has great potential to address environmental and development challenges in the region while also fostering sustainable economic growth and development. By investing in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, green infrastructure, waste management and recycling, ecosystem restoration and conservation, climate-resilient development, and green finance, these regions can promote sustainable development and build a more resilient future. The following green economy interventions are crucial for North Africa, the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa and can help African and Arab states address current and future economic crises:

**Renewable energy:** Investing in renewable energy can help to reduce the region's dependence on fossil fuels and address energy security challenges. The region has significant potential for solar and wind power, and investment in these sources can create jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve energy access in rural areas. Hydroelectric power can also be developed where appropriate, particularly in East Africa. For example, Morocco has launched one of the world's largest solar power projects, the Noor Ouarzazate Solar Complex, which has the potential to provide energy to over 1 million people and have 52% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

**Sustainable agriculture:** Implementing agroecological practices can help to ensure food security while also conserving natural resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Agroecology emphasizes the integration of crops and livestock, the use of natural pest control, and soil conservation practices such as conservation tillage and cover cropping. Reducing food waste and enhancing water efficiency can also help to promote sustainable agriculture. For example, Kenya's Green Revolution seeks to increase agricultural productivity while promoting sustainable practices such as conservation agriculture.

**Green infrastructure**: Developing eco-friendly buildings, public transportation, and urban planning can help to minimize resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in cities. For example, promoting green building practices such as passive solar design and energy-efficient appliances can reduce energy demand. Investing in public transportation systems such as buses, light rail, and bike sharing can reduce reliance on private vehicles, while urban planning that prioritizes walking and cycling can promote active lifestyles and reduce emissions.For example, the city of Marrakesh, Morocco, has launched a Green City Plan that includes the development of eco-friendly buildings, green spaces, and public transportation.

**Waste management and recycling:** Establishing waste collection, recycling, and upcycling systems can reduce landfill use and promote a circular economy. For example, organic waste can be composted and used as fertilizer, while recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, and metal can be collected and processed into new products. Upcycling, which involves repurposing waste materials into new and useful products, can also create economic opportunities and reduce waste.

**Ecosystem restoration and conservation**: Protecting and restoring forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems can maintain biodiversity and ensure essential ecosystem services such as water filtration and carbon sequestration. This can involve measures such as reforestation, habitat restoration, and wildlife conservation. Conservation and restoration can also provide economic benefits through ecotourism, sustainable forestry, and other nature-based enterprises. For example, the Great Green Wall initiative aims to restore degraded lands in the Sahel region of Africa, improving soil health and increasing water availability.

**Climate-resilient development**: Integrating climate adaptation strategies into urban and rural planning, infrastructure, and agricultural systems can help to mitigate the impacts of climate change and build resilience to its effects. This can involve measures such as building sea walls to protect against rising sea levels, promoting drought-resistant crops, and investing in early warning systems for extreme weather events. For example, the African Development Bank's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy aims to support climate-resilient development in the region.

**Green finance:** Encouraging investments in sustainable projects, green bonds, and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria can help to mobilize private sector investment in sustainable development. For example, green bonds can be used to finance renewable energy projects, while ESG criteria can be used to screen investments for environmental and social risks and opportunities.

**Diversifying economies:** Reducing dependence on natural resource extraction and promoting sustainable sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green tourism. Many African and Arab states rely heavily on the extraction and export of natural resources such as oil, gas, and minerals. This dependence can make these economies vulnerable to price fluctuations and market volatility. By diversifying their economies and promoting sustainable sectors, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green tourism, countries can reduce their reliance on natural resource extraction and create new sources of income. For example, promoting solar energy in North Africa and the Middle East can reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase energy security.

**Creating jobs**: Green sectors, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green tourism, have the potential to create new jobs and provide opportunities for skill development and training. This can help to reduce unemployment rates and boost economic growth. For example, investing in sustainable agriculture can create jobs in farming, processing, and distribution, while promoting renewable energy can create jobs in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance.

**Enhancing resilience**: A green economy approach can help African and Arab states enhance their resilience to climate-related disasters and economic shocks. By strengthening ecosystems and infrastructure, countries can better withstand the impacts of droughts, floods, and other climate-related events. For example, restoring degraded lands can help to prevent erosion, improve soil health, and increase water availability, making communities more resilient to droughts. Building green infrastructure, such as green roofs and permeable pavements, can help to reduce the impacts of flooding in urban areas.

**Fostering innovation**: A green economy approach can also foster innovation and encourage research and development in clean technologies, sustainable practices, and green solutions. This can help to address environmental challenges while also creating new business opportunities. For example, investing in research and development of new renewable energy technologies can help to reduce costs and increase efficiency, making them more competitive with fossil fuels.

**Green tourism:** Promoting sustainable tourism practices can help attract visitors while preserving natural and cultural resources. For example, the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania has become a popular destination for eco-tourists seeking to observe wildlife and support conservation efforts while the Jordan Inbound Tour Operators Association promotes eco-tourism in Jordan and has partnered with local communities to develop sustainable tourism practices.

**Research and development:** Investing in research and development of clean technologies can help reduce costs and increase efficiency, making them more competitive with fossil fuels. For example, the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi is a research-oriented university that focuses on renewable energy and sustainable technologies.

**Entrepreneurship:** Supporting entrepreneurship and innovation in green sectors can help create new business opportunities and support sustainable development. For example, the Switch Africa Green initiative provides

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, SHOORA, AND EQUIVALENT COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD ON PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN ECONOMY STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS**

The following recommendations are proposed for promotion of the implementation of the green economy approaches:

1. **Implementing green economy strategies**

Developing and implementing national green economy strategies that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is crucial for achieving sustainable economic growth and addressing environmental challenges. These strategies should be tailored to each country's unique economic, social, and environmental circumstances, and should involve a participatory approach that engages stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector. The SDGs provide a framework for sustainable development, including poverty reduction, social inclusion, environmental protection, and economic prosperity. Therefore, aligning national green economy strategies with these goals can help prioritize interventions that contribute to multiple SDGs simultaneously.

The strategies should focus on promoting sustainable sectors, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, green infrastructure, and eco-tourism, while reducing dependence on non-renewable resources. The strategies should also incorporate measures to promote sustainable consumption and production, reduce waste, and enhance natural resource conservation. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that these strategies are implemented effectively, with appropriate institutional arrangements, regulatory frameworks, and financing mechanisms in place. It is also important to monitor progress, measure impacts, and make adjustments as necessary to ensure that the strategies remain relevant and effective.

Overall, developing and implementing national green economy strategies that align with the SDGs can help African and Arab states achieve sustainable economic growth while addressing environmental challenges and promoting social inclusion. Such strategies can also contribute to meeting international commitments under the Paris Agreement and other environmental agreements.

1. ***Establishing Regional Partnerships***

Establishing regional partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, and resources in implementing green initiatives is an important aspect of promoting sustainable development in African and Arab states. Regional partnerships can facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, enhance collaboration among countries, and promote regional integration.

Partnerships can take various forms, such as regional networks, alliances, and initiatives, and can involve various stakeholders, including governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Through these partnerships, countries can learn from each other's experiences in implementing green initiatives, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management.

Regional partnerships can also help countries overcome common challenges, such as access to finance, technology transfer, and capacity building. By pooling resources and expertise, countries can jointly undertake projects that are beyond their individual capacities, such as large-scale renewable energy projects or transboundary ecosystem management. Furthermore, regional partnerships can enhance regional trade and investment, creating opportunities for green growth and job creation. For instance, regional markets for renewable energy and sustainably produced goods can provide a boost to local economies and support regional integration.

Effective regional partnerships require strong leadership, clear objectives, and transparent governance mechanisms. It is also important to ensure that the partnerships are inclusive, with all stakeholders having a voice in decision-making processes. Overall, establishing regional partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, and resources in implementing green initiatives can promote sustainable development in African and Arab states, enhance regional integration, and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

1. ***Supporting research and innovation in clean technologies and sustainable practices***

Supporting research and innovation in clean technologies and sustainable practices is crucial for promoting a green economy in African and Arab states. Such support can be provided through a range of measures, including funding for research and development, tax incentives for green investments, and partnerships between academia and industry.

Investments in research and innovation can lead to the development of new technologies and practices that improve resource efficiency, reduce emissions, and promote sustainable growth. For example, research in energy storage technologies can help to overcome the intermittency of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, making them more viable alternatives to fossil fuels. Similarly, research in sustainable agriculture can lead to the development of new practices that reduce water and fertilizer use, increase soil health, and enhance food security. Moreover, innovation in clean technologies and sustainable practices can lead to the creation of new industries and job opportunities. For instance, the development of a local renewable energy industry can create jobs in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of renewable energy systems. Similarly, the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture can create jobs in areas such as agroforestry, organic farming, and sustainable fisheries.

To maximize the impact of research and innovation, it is important to promote collaboration between academia, industry, and government. Such collaboration can facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology between different sectors and ensure that research and innovation align with the needs and priorities of society. Finally, it is important to ensure that the benefits of research and innovation are accessible to all, particularly marginalized and vulnerable populations. This can be achieved through policies that promote technology transfer, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, as well as through the development of local innovation ecosystems that support entrepreneurship and social innovation.

In conclusion, supporting research and innovation in clean technologies and sustainable practices is critical for promoting a green economy in African and Arab states. It can lead to the development of new industries, job opportunities, and improved environmental outcomes, as well as contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

1. **Encouraging private sector involvement in green economy initiatives through incentives and regulatory frameworks**

Private sector involvement is essential in driving the transition to a green economy. Governments can encourage private sector participation in green initiatives by offering incentives, such as tax breaks or subsidies, to companies that invest in environmentally sustainable projects. These incentives can help to reduce the costs of adopting sustainable practices and technologies, making them more attractive to businesses. Governments can also implement regulatory frameworks that require companies to comply with environmental standards and practices. By setting standards for emissions, waste disposal, and other environmental impacts, governments can ensure that businesses are operating in an environmentally sustainable way. This can be achieved through the use of permits, regulations, and other legal mechanisms.

Another way to encourage private sector involvement in green initiatives is by providing access to financing and technical support. Governments can work with financial institutions to develop green finance mechanisms, such as green bonds or low-interest loans for sustainable projects. Technical assistance can also be provided to help businesses develop and implement sustainable practices and technologies.

Public-private partnerships can also play an important role in promoting green initiatives. Governments can work with private sector companies to develop and implement projects that support sustainable development. These partnerships can provide access to private sector expertise, resources, and funding, while also ensuring that sustainability goals are met. In addition, governments can use public procurement policies to promote sustainability in the private sector. By requiring suppliers to meet certain sustainability criteria, governments can incentivize companies to adopt sustainable practices and technologies. This can have a ripple effect throughout supply chains, encouraging more companies to adopt sustainable practices.

Overall, there are several ways that governments can encourage private sector involvement in green economy initiatives. By offering incentives, implementing regulatory frameworks, providing access to financing and technical support, and promoting public-private partnerships and procurement policies, governments can create an environment that is conducive to private sector investment in sustainable projects.

1. ***Developing green finance instruments and mechanisms to mobilize investments for sustainable projects***

Developing green finance instruments and mechanisms is essential to mobilizing investments for sustainable projects. The private sector is critical to financing the transition to a green economy, and green finance can help channel private capital towards sustainable development initiatives. Green finance instruments can include green bonds, green loans, green insurance, and green investment funds. These financial products provide incentives for investors to finance sustainable projects and provide a way for companies to raise capital for green investments.

Green finance mechanisms can also include policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage investment in sustainable projects. Governments can establish tax incentives for green investments, implement green procurement policies, and create green investment funds. Additionally, international organizations can play a significant role in developing and promoting green finance instruments and mechanisms. For example, the Green Climate Fund, established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, provides financing for climate-related projects in developing countries. It is essential to ensure that green finance instruments and mechanisms are designed with appropriate governance and accountability measures. This includes standards for disclosure, reporting, and verification to ensure that investments meet the necessary environmental and social criteria. Furthermore, it is crucial to ensure that the benefits of green finance reach marginalized communities and do not exacerbate existing inequalities.

Overall, developing green finance instruments and mechanisms is critical to mobilizing the necessary investments to transition to a green economy. By leveraging private sector capital and creating incentives for sustainable investments, green finance can help drive the transformation towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

1. ***Strengthening capacity building and technical assistance programs for the development of green skills and entrepreneurship***

Capacity building and technical assistance programs are essential components for the successful transition to a green economy. The development of green skills and entrepreneurship is necessary to meet the demands of emerging green sectors and industries. To strengthen capacity building and technical assistance programs, governments and other stakeholders must prioritize education and training programs that focus on the development of green skills and entrepreneurship.

Capacity building programs should be tailored to meet the specific needs of different target groups, such as farmers, entrepreneurs, and youth. They should be designed to address the knowledge and skill gaps of these groups and provide them with the necessary tools and resources to participate in the green economy. Technical assistance programs should also be implemented to support the development of green businesses and initiatives, providing guidance on best practices, regulations, and standards.

To ensure that capacity building and technical assistance programs are effective, partnerships should be established between governments, private sector, educational institutions, and civil society organizations. These partnerships can help to leverage resources, expertise, and knowledge to develop high-quality training and education programs. In addition, training and education programs should also promote gender equality and social inclusion by ensuring that women and marginalized groups have equal access to opportunities and resources. This can help to foster greater diversity and inclusiveness in the green economy and promote more equitable and sustainable development.

Overall, strengthening capacity building and technical assistance programs for the development of green skills and entrepreneurship is crucial for promoting the successful transition to a green economy. By investing in education and training, governments and other stakeholders can equip individuals and communities with the knowledge, skills, and tools they need to thrive in a sustainable and equitable green economy.

1. ***Collaboration with international organizations, development partners, and civil society to support green economy initiatives and projects***

Collaboration with international organizations, development partners, and civil society is crucial for the successful implementation of green economy initiatives and projects. These partnerships can provide technical expertise, financial resources, and knowledge sharing to support the development and implementation of green economy policies and projects. International organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) have extensive experience and expertise in supporting sustainable development initiatives and can provide valuable support to African and Arab countries. These organizations can help to design and implement green economy policies, provide financial resources and technical assistance for green projects, and promote knowledge-sharing and best practices.

Development partners such as the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) can provide financial and technical support to help implement green economy initiatives. These partners can also help to facilitate access to green finance and markets and provide training and capacity building programs for green entrepreneurship and job creation.

Civil society organizations can play an important role in promoting the transition to a green economy by raising awareness, advocating for policy changes, and supporting the implementation of green projects at the local level. These organizations can also provide technical expertise and community engagement to ensure that green projects are socially and environmentally sustainable and meet the needs of local communities.

In summary, collaboration with international organizations, development partners, and civil society can provide African and Arab countries with valuable resources, expertise, and knowledge to successfully implement green economy initiatives and projects. This collaboration can also help to foster partnerships and networks that can support the continued development of green economies in these regions.

1. **THE ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN CHAMPIONING ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PAPER**

The Association of Senates, Shoora, and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, as a collective of parliamentarians, can play a vital role in championing the adoption and implementation of the paper's recommendations. Here are some ways the association can be instrumental in this process:

**Legislative support:** Parliamentarians can play a crucial role in promoting green economy policies through the drafting, sponsorship, and support of legislation that aligns with the recommendations of the paper. This could involve incentivizing the adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, promoting sustainable agriculture practices, and imposing waste management standards. The proposed legislation should also incorporate provisions for tax breaks and other incentives for eco-friendly infrastructure projects, including public transport systems and energy-efficient buildings. By passing such legislation, parliamentarians can provide the legal framework needed to support green economy initiatives and encourage private sector investment.

**Advocacy and awareness:** Members of the association can leverage their public platforms to raise awareness of the benefits of green economy strategies and sustainable development. By engaging with the media, participating in public events, and using social media, parliamentarians can reach a wider audience and educate citizens and stakeholders on the importance of adopting green economy strategies. By advocating for the adoption of green economy policies, parliamentarians can also help to create a political will for change, enabling the implementation of the recommendations proposed in the paper.

**Budgetary allocations:** As members of legislative bodies, parliamentarians have the power to influence the allocation of government funds to support green economy initiatives. By advocating for increased investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and other priority areas identified in the paper, parliamentarians can create the necessary financial resources needed to promote green economy initiatives. Additionally, they can ensure that budgetary allocations are effectively and efficiently utilized through oversight mechanisms.

**Oversight and accountability:** Parliamentarians can exercise their oversight responsibilities to ensure that governments and the private sector adhere to the principles of the green economy. This could involve monitoring the implementation of legislation, investigating allegations of non-compliance, and holding public hearings to ensure transparency and accountability. By holding those responsible accountable for their actions, parliamentarians can create a culture of compliance and help to ensure that green economy initiatives are effectively implemented.

**Regional and international collaboration:** Members of the association can foster regional and international cooperation by participating in inter-parliamentary dialogues, engaging with international organizations, and forming partnerships with development agencies to share knowledge, resources, and best practices in green economy initiatives. This can help to create a regional and global network of actors committed to promoting sustainable development and the green economy. Through these partnerships, parliamentarians can also help to facilitate the transfer of technology and expertise, which is crucial for the implementation of successful green economy policies.

**Capacity building and training:** The association can organize capacity building and training programs for parliamentarians, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively champion the green economy. This could involve workshops, seminars, and study visits to learn from successful green economy initiatives in other countries. By enhancing the capacity of parliamentarians to understand and implement green economy policies, they can become effective advocates for change, promoting green economy strategies within their respective countries.

**Policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement:** Parliamentarians can facilitate policy dialogues and engage with stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia, and international organizations, to develop a shared vision for the green economy. By engaging stakeholders in a dialogue, parliamentarians can help to ensure that the implementation of green economy policies is inclusive, transparent, and accountable. This can help to create a broad-based consensus on the need for sustainable development and the implementation of the paper's recommendations, resulting in a more effective and sustainable green economy strategy.

The Association of Senates, Shoora, and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World has the unique opportunity to lead the charge in adopting and implementing green economy strategies. By leveraging their legislative powers and enacting relevant legislation, raising awareness, exercising budgetary control, and allocating resources, ensuring oversight and accountability, fostering collaboration, building capacity, and engaging stakeholders, promoting regional integration, and advocating for inclusive development policies, parliamentarians and senates can drive meaningful change towards a sustainable future in Africa and the Arab world.

1. **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The global economic crisis and current geopolitical tensions and instability have had a negative impact on African and Arab states especially because of their high vulnerability to global economic shocks and price fluctuations in global markets. This has led to a general economic slowdown in these countries and has further exacerbated the already challenging economic conditions in Africa and Arab countries.

A green economy offers a sustainable pathway for development in Africa and the Arab world amid successive crises and ongoing geopolitical tensions. By focusing on resource efficiency, social inclusion, low-emission development, and resilience, a green economy can foster environmentally and socially sustainable growth, helping countries navigate the challenges of the current global economic landscape.

The Association of Senates, Shoora, and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World has the unique opportunity to lead the charge in adopting and implementing green economy strategies. By leveraging their legislative powers, parliamentarians can drive meaningful change towards a sustainable future both in Africa and the Arab world.

It is therefore recommended that a green economy approach be promoted in Africa and the Arab countries to mitigate the current and potential future impacts of a slowing global economy and escalating tensions and instability in a world so much in need of peace, development, prosperity, multilateralism and inclusivity.