

ASSECAA: VISION & ACHIEVEMENTS (FOURTH ISSUE)

ASSOCIATION DES SENATS, SHOORA ET CONSEILS EQUIVALENTS D'AFRIQUE ET DU MONDE ARABE
ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, SHOORA AND EQUIVALENT COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD

رابطة مجالس الشيوخ والشورى والمجالس المماثلة في إفريقيا والعالم العربي



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Acknowledgement

Dear Readers,

I am very pleased to present to you the fourth edition of our compendium "ASSECAA: Vision and Achievements" that contains detailed information on the programs executed by the Association from 2017-2019. In this publication, we tried our best to present such information in a terse and consummate style that attracts readers into reading the document in such a way as to satisfy their curiosity for extra knowledge of ASSECAA's objectives, its breakthroughs and the attainments it has made since its establishment.

I would like to express deep gratitude to all those who contributed to the production of this book, particularly the General Secretariat's employees who made unrelenting efforts to collate, revise and translate the information therein. My special thanks are due to Mr. Anwar Al-Shoaybi, who set out the book outline, and translated the contents from Arabic into English, as well as Mr. Abdul Fattah Al-Mosbahi, who reedited and translated the document from English to Arabic. I am also very grateful to Mr. Jean Paul Rwinginga, who translated the book from English into French, and who proof-read the French version. My thanks go to Eng. Ameen Al-Oqaida, who marvelously designed the book so it tempts readers to read it from beginning to end.

My profound thanks also go to Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayeb, the Assistant Secretary General for Political and cultural Affairs, who did the final editing and proof-reading of the Arabic

edition, and fulfilled the onerous task of following up and supervising the whole business till it came to light. I am also very thankful to Mr. Egiwm Nkemjika, the Assistant Secretary General for administrative and financial affairs, for the genuine efforts he has made in editing and proof-reading both the English and French versions.

The great contributions made by the secretaries, namely Ms. Yasmine Al-Eryani, and Mrs. Mariam Al-Zubair, who typed, stored and provided the data, are greatly appreciated. I am thankful to Mrs. Rehab Ishaq, who was in charge of the financial matters pertaining to the printing and production of the publication.

I would like to express profound gratitude to H.E Abdel Hakeem Benchamch, Speaker of the House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco, for the substantial efforts he has been, and still is, making to assist ASSECAA in the discharge of its responsibilities as well as the realization of the noble goals for which it was created.

My thanks are due to all member councils for their unwavering support to the Association and its activities.

Abdulwasie Yusuf Ali,
Secretary General



Preamble

We are all aware that Africa and Arab regions are linked by history, religion, and socioeconomic ties that make them share common destiny. We are also fully aware of the importance of the Association of Senates & Shoora and equivalent councils in Africa and the Arab world (ASSECAA) and the noble objectives it seeks to achieve. The Association, which is the only legislative institution that brings together the two legislative chambers in Africa and the Arab world, works to consolidate historical, geographical, social and cultural ties and seeks to achieve economic and political interests in the pursuit of Afro-Arab integration. It also endeavors to achieve common interests in terms of sustainable development and the uplifting of peoples. My conviction is growing daily of the importance of ASSECAA and its role in bridging the Arab-African relations through its positions of solidarity with states and peoples, as well as its programs aimed at getting Arab and African governments and peoples to move from the stage of acquaintance, harmony and fraternity to the stage of support, cohesion, cooperation, integration and achievement of mutual interests.

In this context, the Association has firmed its presence and become a truly balanced international organization which is moving steadily towards achieving the noble and humanitarian objectives for which it was founded.

Such objectives include encouraging, supporting and strengthening the bicameral systems consisting of two legislative chambers inside and outside the African and Arab countries and encouraging and boosting cooperation in the economic, political, social and cultural fields between Arab and African countries and the world at large, as well as the exchange of experiences in the fields of participatory democracy and good governance and consultation on issues related to common interests at the local and international levels.

Out of our belief in the importance of the Association and its tasks, the Kingdom of Morocco - represented by the House of Councilors - has had the honor of chairing it twice, the first was in 2009 and the second in 2017. We exerted great efforts in order to contribute to the progress of the Association towards achieving its objectives, strengthening its presence at the international level and coordinating our efforts with member councils to make its voice audible at the international forums.

In spite of the challenges the Association has faced due to the complications and problems brought about by the ongoing war in Yemen - the headquarters country - and the partial relocation of the Association's office temporarily to the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, during Morocco's chair-



manship of ASSECAA, we were able to hold important activities within the Association's agenda, including the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum which was held in Rabat, Morocco from 25-26 April 2018 under the theme "For Building Integrated Model for Regional Cooperation". Meanwhile a meeting for women parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab world was held on the sideline of this forum, in which several work papers were presented on the role of women in economic growth and sustainable development. We also held an international seminar on national reconciliation experiences in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco from 17-18 January 2019. At the seminar, the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World was officially launched and its constituent charter was approved. The seminar also came up with "Rabat Declaration on national reconciliations".

This book includes a summary of the resolutions and recommendations of the events held during the period 2017-2019, as well as some of the work-papers presented during the same events.

When we talk about food security, we must take into account the political conditions in which our two regions are experiencing. Internal political strife and the resultant external involvements have devastated basic economic and social infrastructures and rendered millions of people food insecure in several Arab and African countries. Thus, our determination to enhance our joint efforts to offer food security guaran-

tee to our Afro-Arab population will definitely guide us on how to proceed towards achieving economic partnership to face the challenges of economic development. We need to learn from these bad experiences and try to solve our disputes through reconciliation by give and take means. Where politicians opt for pulling the gun fire and shy away from political dialogue the door to economic development will be closed for longer time than expected. Women, Children and our elderly suffer the consequences triggered by others.

Accordingly, the international seminar on national reconciliation experiences was organized in Rabat, Morocco from 17-18 January, 2019. The organization of this international seminar is not only to set one of ASSECAA's program priorities, but mainly to accompany the transformations that are taking place in the two geographical areas covered by its competence to try and explore the feasibility of resorting to transitional justice as an alternative to all other forms of resolving past conflicts and to address the challenges related to regional geopolitical variables and the consequences of the waves of protest and social uprisings that have led to regime change in particular states and the resulting challenges and stakes that need not be discussed in detail.

The extrapolation of global experiences is that reconciliation is not intended to reconcile two parties, the individual and the executioner or the individual and the person responsible for



the violation. The issue of forgiveness and apology concerns individuals, whereas political reconciliation during political transitions usually refers to political and social reconciliation and other forms of reconciliation. One of the most prominent forms of reconciliation is the open and frank discussion of what has happened and why it has been done, especially with regard to disregard for rights, cultural disruption, denial of history and distortion of collective memory.

Moreover, the pivotal work of truth commissions is not only to uncover abstract facts about violations and all forms of repression, but to get to the core of things by interpreting these violations as a pattern of repression and as a means of managing public affairs at some point. This is because discussions of reasons lead to the enrichment of political culture, self-awareness and harmony with the common history of a people or a nation, for the revival and restoration of memory would allow for enriching contribution to the development and dissemination of the elements of reconciliation. Reconciliation is ultimately a result and pathway, including the trajectory of truth, the course of democracy, and the path of establishing guarantees of non-repetition of the course and process of restoring confidence, and thus it has been the outcome of all these tracks and does not come just after calling for it.

We shall not forget the role of national parliaments in accordance with the constitutional and legal systems of each country, starting with national

consultations on the launching of transitional justice paths and through their legislative contributions, particularly in enacting relevant laws and activating their supervisory roles, including fact-finding committees, and contributing to the follow-up to the outputs of truth and reconciliation bodies related to institutional reforms, rehabilitation of the justice system and guarantees of non-repetition.

In addition to the crucial roles of national parliaments in enacting laws, bills or related to transitional justice which are regarded as the most important thing is to strengthen the striving of parliaments to contribute to restoring confidence and political order after years of conflict-induced disintegration. This can be achieved only by raising awareness and collective thinking to propose reforms and contribute to the assessment of the reforms that took place during crisis, transition and the future on the one hand, and to make the parliamentary institution not only a space for public discourse but also an area for free community dialogue, a proactive mechanism to contain the crisis and an early warning of its potential occurrence on the other, given that Parliament is a natural and institutional extension of public debate platforms on thorny issues and problems that will sustain tensions and social congestions threatening peace and stability.

This fourth edition “ASSECAA: Vision and Achievements” is an annual publication released by the General Secretariat that briefly explains some of the



activities carried out by the Association from 2017-2019. Indeed, the activities undertaken over the past period were extensively treated in the earlier three editions .

A mere review of such achievements cannot adequately encompass the breakthroughs made by ASSECAA. This brief presentation was never meant to delve into the niceties and nuances of such stupendous deeds, as the matter requires a work team to fulfill this daunting task. This modest effort was instead designed to give an indication on the direction of ASSECAA's course of action in terms of achieving its goals.

As I review some of these achievements, I would like to express sincere gratitude to those who were responsive in respect of achieving such goals and in particular the General Secretariat's management and employees for the good efforts they exerted to run the operations of the Association smoothly ; I also express my gratitude and thanks to employees and cadres of the House of Counselors of Morocco who contributed to the success of meetings held in Morocco ; I sincerely thank all member countries who in one way or the other have contributed to the successes experienced by the Association in its programs.

ASSECAA's achievements and its future plans and programs give it both hope and confidence that it would have a promising future given its active role in promoting Afro-Arab cooperation with the goal of maximizing com-

mon economic in-terests and deepening understanding of po-rtical, social and cultural interests. Indeed, the emerging organization is contributing, along with other regional unions and orga-nizations, to the establishment of regional peace and security, and the formulation of regional groupings that enable both regions achieve comprehensive and sustainable de-velopment for the betterment of their own populations, which would reflect positively on global peace and security.

Last but not the least, I would like to express profound gratitude to all those who con-tributed to the compilation of this book and enriching it with instructive information and valuable reports. My special thanks go to the General Secretariat's leadership for the commendable efforts they have exerted in the production of this document.

I would also like to take this opportunity to call upon member councils to continue their support to, and encouragement of the Asso-ciation to help it realize its noble objectives, and achieve Afro-Arab cooperation for the benefit of our Arab and African nations.

*Abdul- Hakim Ben Chamach,
Speaker of House of Councilors
of Morocco ,
Chairman of ASSECAA*



Foreword

With adamant resolve, ASSECAA's General Secretariat continues its tireless efforts to further translate its ambitions into reality and achieve its lofty goals for which it was established, including by the implementation of a wide range of activities and programs dedicated to discussing a variety of issues that are of common concern to our region. At the forefront of these issues are good governance, the empowerment of women, the promotion of economic, political, social and cultural cooperation among Arab and African peoples, as well as the achievement of peace and security through effective participation in Resolving conflicts in Africa and the Arab world, among other issues.

Thanks to the tremendous and sincere efforts made by the General Secretariat in this regard, the Association has thus occupied a prominent place in the legislative and parliamentary space, regional and international, which is reflected in its regular and effective participation in the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), of which all world parliaments are members. ASSECAA

was also granted an observer status to the IPU activities, which gives it an international character. In addition, ASSECAA has forged close partnerships and robust cooperation with all regional and international parliamentary unions, which include, besides IPU, the Arab Parliamentary Union, the African Parliamentary Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Parliamentary Union of the Caribbean States and Latin America, with these becoming regularly involved in its activities.

In the last three years, ASSECAA has made a major breakthrough in its relations with regional and international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN-Women, and the European Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to name but a few. For example, ASSECAA, in cooperation with the House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco, and in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), orga-



nized the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum in Rabat from 25 to 26 April 2018. The Forum approved the establishment of a parliamentary network for food security and nutrition in Africa; a draft constituent charter for the network was also adopted at the event. On the sidelines of the forum, a meeting of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World was held in partnership with UN-Women, where important recommendations and decisions concerning mechanisms for effective and successful empowerment of Arab and African women were made. It was also during this same meeting that a parliamentary network for women entrepreneurs in Africa and the Arab world was established and its draft charter prepared.

Through the partnership with these organizations, ASSECAA has risen to the ranks of important international organizations that address extremely complex issues at the regional and international levels such as climate change, the challenges of food insecurity, and successful global experiences in national reconciliation and transitional justice. In this context, ASSECAA organized an international seminar on the experiences of national reconciliation that led to the achievement

of security and stability in many countries in Rabat, the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco from 17-18 January 2019, in cooperation with the House of Counselors, to which several regional and international parliamentary organizations were invited. This important event, which reviewed many successful experiences in the sphere of national reconciliation in several Arab, African and Latin American countries, among others, came up with crucial decisions and recommendations on the effective mechanisms of achieving national reconciliation in the Arab and African countries suffering from the scourge of wars and conflicts.

Further, the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World was inaugurated during that same event, in addition to the adoption of the network's constituent charter, which deals with food security and nutrition issues and addresses poverty and famine in the countries of the two regions in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG2 - the Eradication of poverty and famine by 2030.

Most importantly, the first meeting of the network will be organized in Rabat from 30 October to 1 November 2019, to which all



Arab and African member and non-member countries, as well as regional and international parliamentary unions and organizations have been invited.

What's more, ASSECAA's parliamentary diplomacy has significantly paid off, with its members reaping some of its dividends. For instance, the Association has played a prominent diplomatic role in lifting the unilateral sanctions imposed on the Republic of Sudan, where the General Secretariat of the Association submitted a petition to both the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as the US Congress demanding the immediate lifting of these sanctions. Such diplomatic efforts have surely come to bear in that the sanctions on the Sudanese people were ultimately lifted.

Needless to say that since its creation, ASSECAA has held many conferences, retreats, meetings of chambers of commerce and industry, meetings of the Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution, as well as meetings of women parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab world, all of which were aimed at realizing the Association's noble goals.

Comprehensive and detailed information on all these events has been provided in the three pre-

vious editions of the Association's compendium *Visions and Achievements*.

In this fourth edition, we have provided detailed and thorough information on the activities carried out by the Association in the period 2017-2019, which include the following:

- 1- The 10th conference of the Association and the 11th Council meeting held in Rabat, the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco from 20 to 21 September 2017.
- 2- The Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum, which was also held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 25-26 April 2018.
- 3- The international seminar on the experiences of successful national reconciliation and transitional justice that led to peace and stability in many countries, which was also held in Rabat on 17-18 January 2019.

This book consists of seven chapters. Chapter one contains a comprehensive summary of the activities and events organized by the Association in 2017-2019. It also contains decisions and recommendations issued by those events. Chapter two deals with the issue of peace and conflicts in Africa and the Arab world. It also contains a work-paper on the same subject presented by Dr.



Habib Makhtoum, member of the Council of States of the Republic of Sudan, during ASSECAA's 10th Conference and 11th Council meeting held in Rabat from 20-21 September 2017. Chapter three deals with the issue of good governance and contains a paper on the same topic presented by Dr. Abdullah Al-Mousa, member of the House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, at the 10th conference and 11th Council meeting, which was held in Rabat on 20-21 September 2017.

Chapter four tackles food security in Africa and the Arab world and contains a presentation by FAO representative during the International seminar on national reconciliation experiences held in the Rabat from 17th to 18th January 2019.

Chapter five deals with the role of cultural villages in promoting cultural cooperation between Africa and the Arab world. It also includes the cultural village project submitted to the General Secretariat by Dr. Yousef Mohammed Abdullah, professor of archeology at Sana'a University.

Chapter six deals with the issue of empowering women in Africa and the Arab world. It further contains a paper on the role of women in economic development presented by the Council of

States of Sudan during the Arab-African Parliamentary Economic Forum held in Rabat from 25 to 26 April 2018. Chapter seven tackles the topic of national reconciliation and transitional justice and the role of parliaments in achieving same, and involves several papers and interventions by international experts and members of the delegations that partook in the international seminar on the experiences of national reconciliation held in Rabat, Morocco January 17-18, 2019.

Last but not least, we hope that, through this modest effort, our readers will find the required information and data that satisfy their passion for knowledge of the Association and its activities in the aforementioned period. Those seeking extra information on ASSECAA, its development, and its programs, can go back to the previous publications we issued over the past years.

*Mr. Egwim Nkemjika,
Assistant Secretary General
for Finance & Admin.
Affairs*



ASSECAA's Rotating Chairmanship:

Several heads of member councils/senates have rotated the chairmanship of ASSECAA since its inception in 2004. Below are profiles of ASSECAA's Chairmen:

*H.E Abdelhakim Benchemach,
The Speaker of the House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco,
Current Chairman of ASSECAA*



Date of birth / Place : 12 September 1963 in Al Hoceima.

Married and father of two children.

-Qualifications

PHD degree in(State in Political Thought)

Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations(1993-1994).

Diploma in Advanced Studies in International Relations(1991-1992).

Licence in Political Science(1987-1988).

Baccalaureate in Modern Arts(1983-1984)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Mohammed V University, Faculty of Law, Suez (2011-2014).

Professor of research at Moulay Ismail University - Faculty of Law (1994 - 2011)

Visiting Professor at Mohamed V University, Faculty of Law, Agdal(1993-1994).

-Chairman of the National Council of the PAM.

-Parliamentary Advisor - Chairman of the Panel of Authenticity and Contemporary Council of Advisors - preceded.

-President of Yacoub El Mansour province in Rabat .

-Member of the executive office of the Movement for All Democrats.

-Vice President of the Rif Association for Solidarity and Development.

-Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization .

-Member of the Supreme Council for Education and Training.

-Head of the Center for the Care of the Elderly and abandoned children.

Current Chairman of the Association of Senate and Shura Councils and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World .

Languages:

Arabic, Amazigh, French, English.



H.E Dr. Omar Sueliman Adam Wanis, Former Speaker of Council of States of Sudan, Chairman of ASSECAA From (March 30,2016 - September 21, 2017)



-Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Physics.
- Master's degree in Peace and Security Studies, Sudan University, 2009.
- PhD degree in Peace and Security studies , Sudan University, 2013.

Leadership Experience

- State Minister in Greater Kordofan State, 1991-1994.
- State Minister in West Darfur State, 1994-1995.

-State Minister in the Federal Government of Sudan, 2004-2007.

-Governor of South Kordofan State, 2007-2009.

Parliamentary Experience

-Representative of Laqawa, Klick Constituency, National Assembly, 1996-2000.

- Representative of Laqawa, Klick Constituency, National Assembly, 2005-2007.

-Member of Council of States of Sudan, 2011-2015.

-Member of the expert committee formed by the higher commission on reporting the conditions and justice needs in Darfur following the initiation of implementing the Doha Peace Agreement on Darfur , 2012-2013.

-Member of the Foreign Ministry's Advisory Board, 2013-2015.

- Chairman of ASSECAA(*March 30,2016 - September 21, 2017*).



H.E Yalew Abate, Former Speaker of the House of Federation of Ethiopia, Chairman of ASSECAA(2015).



1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Yalew Abate Reta

Place of birth: wollo

Marital status: Married

Nationality : Ethiopia.

2. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

MBA Master of Business Administration (MBA) From 2003 -2007 summer.

course and distance education
London Open university.

Bachelor of Arts (BA degree) In
applied sociology from 1984 - 1987
AddisAbaba university

3. WORK EXPERIENCE

- Speaker of the House of Federation
From 05 October 2015 up to Now

- Speaker of the Amhara National
Regional state (parliament From
2010 -2015).

- Bureau head for works and urban
development of Amhara national re-
gional state from 2010-2015

- Bureu head for youth, sport and
culture of Amhara region from
2002 -2006.

- Head for social sectors division
in the regional executive commit-
tee Amhara National regional state
from 1996 -2002.

- Served as department Head team
leader and expert at different gov-
ernmental offices.

-Former Chairman of ASSECAA in
(2015).

4. LANGUAGE

Amharic, English



H.E.Kassa Teklebrhan Gebrehiwot, Former Speaker of House of Federation of Ethiopia, Former Chairman of ASSECAA (2014)



- Education: M.A. in Organizational Leadership Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA, USA (May 2006)

- B.Sc in Economics

Ethiopia Civil Service University (August 2002)

- Leadership Experiences:

- Speaker, the House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Bureaus Head, Amhara Regional State of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia:

- Trade and Industry (September 2007 – September 2010),

- Administration and Security (September 2006 – September 2007 and September 2002 – April 2005),

- Agriculture and Rural Development (April 2005 – September 2005),

- Public Relations and Mass Mobilization (April 1993 – October 1998),

- Deputy Chief Command, National Defense, Ethiopia Transitional Government (May 1991 - April 1993)

On job Leadership Experiences:

- Chairperson, Addis Ababa University Management Board (Since 2012)

- Chairperson, Amhara Development Organization (Since 2009)

- Chairperson, Subsidy and Shared Revenues Sharing Standing Committee, the House of Federation of the FDRE (Five years)

- Member, Ethio-Sudan Joint Boundary Commission (three years)

- Board Member, Gondar University Central Committee and Polite Bureau member, Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front (the Ruling Ethiopian Political Party) for more than Fifteen years

- Committee Member, National Security Council (three years)

- Member, Local Development Organization (more than Fourteen years)

- Initiator and Implementer, Inter Regional Committee on Development, Good Governance and Conflict Management between neighboring States

- Designer and Implementer, Justice System Reform program (three years)

- Award Winner, International Student of the year, Azusa Pacific University .



H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, president of shoura council of Bahrain, Chairman of ASSECAA in (2013)



- Bachelor degree of commerce, Ain Shams University .
- Member of the constituent Assembly ,1973.
- Member of the national Assembly from 1973 to 1975.
- Vice-chairman of Chamber of Commerce and industry of Bahrain.
- Member of the supreme council of economic development , June 11, 2000.
- Member of the Board of trustees of Bahrain university .
- Second Deputy – Speaker of Shoura council of Bahrain , first session , 1993.
- Minister of Commerce and Industry , 1995 – 2004 .
- Chairman of the directorate of Bahrain Stock Exchange , 1995 – 2004.
- Minister of Municipalities &

- Agriculture Affairs , 2005 -2006.
- Speaker of Shoora council of Bahrain , the second legislative term , 15 December , 2006.
- Speaker of Shoora council of Bahrain , the third legislative term , 14 December , 2010.
- Former Chairman of ASSECAA, 2013.

*H.E. Gabriel Ntisezerana, Former President of the Senate of Burundi:
Former Chairman of ASSECAA(2012)*



H.E Gabriel Ntisezerana, a Burundian economist and politician . He had assumed the following positions:

- The Second Vice President of Burundi from Feb.12, 2007-August 28, 2010.
- Speaker of the Senate of Burundi from August, 2010 - August 2015.
- former ASSECAA chairman in (2012) .



*Madam Rose Francis Rogombe,
former President of the Senate of
Gabon, former chairmanship of
ASSECAA (2011)*



Former President of the Senate of Gabon, and Former chairperson of ASSECAA for 2011.

- Hailing from Ghalo tribe, Mrs. Rogombe was born on 20th September, 1942, in the city of Lambarene, 240 km to the northeast of Libreville..
- Received education in law, and graduated from Nanci Collge of Law, France.
- Obtained a degree in theology in 2007.
- Worked as a counselor in April 2008, and has been representing the first constituency in Lambarene, the Capital of the middle Ogooue region since Jan.1, 2009.
- Served as the minister of women and human rights under prime minister Leon M'ba..
- Elected speaker of the Senate on Feb.17, 2009, and served as the acting president of the Republic from June 10, 2009, following the demise of late President Omar Bongo Ondemba, to October 16, 2009, when Mr. Ali Omar Bongo was inaugurated as President of the Republic.

*Dr. Mohammed Cheikh Baidallah,
Former Speaker of the House of Coun-
selsors of Morocco, Chairman of
ASSECAA (2010):*



- Born in Samara, Morocco in 1949.
- Obtained a PhD degree in Medicine in 1979, and worked, during that same year, as a doctor at Ibn Rushd hospital, Casablanca.
- Worked as a prominent professor and researcher in internal medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Casablanca, 1987.
- Elected as a member of Parliament representing the city of Al-Samara in 1977, and was reelected to the same position in 1984.
- Elected chairman of the House of Counselors' committee on foreign affairs, cooperation, borders, occupied areas, and national defense.
- Elected chairman of the committee on supplies, Post and telecommunications.
- Served as the Minister of Health from 2002 to 2007.



H.E Ali Yahya Abdullah, former Speaker of the Council of States of Sudan ,Chairman of ASSECAAA(2009):

Late H.E Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, former Speaker of Shoora Council, Republic of Yemen , former Chairman of ASSECAA from (2004-2008):



- Born in Al-Junainah, Sudan, 1951.
- Obtained a Bachelor's degree in Law at Um Durman Islamic University. He assumed the following positions:
- Chairman of West Darfur state Court of Appeal.
- Chairman of West Darfur State's Judiciary, 1995.
- Member of the Constitutional Court, 1998.
- Member of the advisory board at the Cabinet.
- Member of Darfur committee on dialogue.

- Born in Haifan, Taiz, Yemen, in July 1939.
- Obtained a Master's degree in Economics at Colorado University, 1964.
- Obtained an honorary PhD degree in Economics at Colorado University, 1978.
- Served as the Prime Minister of the formerly Yemen Arab Republic from 1983-1990.
- Served as a member of Yemen's Presidential Council, 1990.
- Acted as Assistant Secretary General of the General People's Congress (GPC) from 1990-1995.
- Worked as a member of the World Bank's advisory board from 1993-1997.
- Served as Yemen's premier from (1994-1997)
- Served as Speaker of the Advisory Council, 1997.
- President of Shoura Council from 2001-2011.



ASSECAA General Secretariat's Management



*Mr. Abdulwasie Yūsuf Ali
Secretary General
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*



*Mr. Egwim Nkemjika
Assistant Secretary General for
Finance & Admin.
The Federal Republic of Nigeria*



*Mr. Mohammed M. Al-Jayeh
Assistant Secretary General for
Political and Cultural Affairs
Republic of Yemen*



ASSECAA General Secretariat 's Employees



Abdul Fattah Al-Moshahi
sectional Head on
Democracy and
Human Rights



Redwan Amer
sectional Head on
Economic Affairs



Rehab Ishaq
Finance Director



Anwar Al-Shoaybi
Director of Cultural
and Social Affairs
(office in charge)



Mariam Al-Zubair
bilingual secretary



Yasmien Al-Eryani
bilingual secretary



Ameen Al-Oqaida
Librarian and
Information Techonlogy
Officer



Jean Paul Rwinginga
Sectional Head on Peace
and conflict Resolution and
women parliamentarians



Mohammed Abdo
support Staff



Rawad Alasbhi
Support Staff



Chapter One

Summary of ASSECAA's Activities held from 2017 - 2019





Introduction

During the period 2017-2019, the General Secretariat of ASSECAA held three significant activities: the 10th Conference and 11th Council Meeting, the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum, and the International Seminar on the experiences of national reconciliation and transitional justice.

All such events were successful by all standards in respect of attendance, enthusiasm and participation. Further, the topical issues discussed and/or reviewed in the speeches and interventions of delegates showed that the Association was very zealous to play crucial 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. Below are the final communiqués of the aforementioned activities.

ASSECAA's 10th Conference & 11th Council Meeting, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 20-21 September, 2017.

In response to the kind invitation of the Speaker of the House of Counselors of Kingdom of Morocco the 10th Conference and 11th Council Meeting of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) was held at the headquarter of the House of Counselors, Rabat , Morocco from the 20 to 21st of September ,2017.

Delegates form the following member Councils / Senates attended the meeting:

- House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- Senate of Republic of Burundi





- Shoora Council of Saudi Arabia
- Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Senate of Republic of Cameroon
- Senate of Republic of Zimbabwe
- Shoora Council of Qatar
- Council of States of the Republic of Sudan
- House of Counselors of Morocco
- Senate of Republic of Namibia
- Senate of Republic of Madagascar
- House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- The Shoora Council of Yemen was represented by Yemen's ambassador in Morocco.

Also in attendance as observers were the following:

- Shoora Council of Maghreb Union
- Arab parliamentary Union
- Arab Maghreb Union

The Conference was held under the supreme auspices of His Majesty, Mohamed VI, King of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Recommendations and Resolutions:

1-The conference approved the recommendations from the budget and administrative committee,

the task-forces on peace and conflict resolution and economic and political affairs, as well as the minutes of the meeting of head of delegations and member councils, which included several issues, including the renewal of the term of office of the Secretary General and the two Assistant Secretaries General for another term of three years. The conference also extended its utmost gratitude to the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for its generous support in temporarily hosting the Head Quarter of ASSECAA and officially request the government of Ethiopia to continue hosting the Head Quarter until such a time when the situation in Yemen becomes normal.

2- The Task-force on Peace and Conflict Resolution presented its report that involved a number of proposals, including the proposed formation of a standing committee on gender, and providing the necessary potentials to enable the Task-force promote its activities. The conference particularly approved the recommendations from the budget and administrative committees on the General Secretariat's closing accounts and its budgets for the years 2017, 2018.



3- The Conference stressed the importance of regularly holding ASSECAA's periodic meetings, urging member countries to cooperate in providing venues for such activities.

4- The conference stressed the importance that ASSECAA should continue to fulfill the task of making efforts at enhancing Afro-Arab efforts at bolstering common action in the two regions in order to confront the challenges facing them, foremost among which are fighting corruption, enhanc-

importance that ASSECAA should continue supporting the principles of bicameralism as a system that proved efficient in terms of achieving peace and stability and broadening the base of popular participation.

6- The Conference adopts the notions and ideas stated in the Speech delivered by H.E Abdulhakim Bin Chamash, which are related to the fact that ASSECAA must pay special attention to the issue of climate change in addition to forming a scientific team



ing development, creating job opportunities, spreading the values of tolerances, and combating all forms of extremism and terrorism.

5- The Conference affirmed the

of experts to be tasked with drawing up a road map to be utilized by Arab and African countries in defending their own interests during forthcoming international conferences on climate change



, given that these countries are among the world regions most affected by climate change. In this respect, the conference confirms its commitment to the provisions of the Paris arrangement on Climate change, calling all countries, including major world powers, to respect their obligations set forth in the Paris arrangement. It rejected any calls for shirking such commitments and pledges stated in the Paris accord.

7- The Conference affirmed the importance of supporting the principles of good governance and human rights, and empowering women to get involved in executive and legislative institutions and giving them the full opportunity of engaging in development.

8- The Conference stressed the importance of supporting the government of the Republic of Burundi in its endeavor to achieve national peace on its territories and preventing foreign interventions in its internal affairs.

9- The Conference condemns the mass genocide which is still being committed against Myanmar's Rohingya minority and calls upon the international community to urgently intervene to stop such

atrocious practices against them and to providing humanitarian assistance to the victims. In this regard, the conference expressed utmost appreciation and immense gratitude to all Arab, African and Islamic countries, among others, especially the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosque, King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, for offering humanitarian aid to the Rohingya displaced people to mitigate their suffering, urging the international committee to take further humanitarian initiatives in support of such people.

10- The participants expressed immense gratitude to the king and government of the Kingdom of Morocco, and the House of Counselors in particular for the generous hospitality and warm reception accorded delegates during their stay in the Kingdom of Morocco. They further expressed utmost appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for the genuine efforts they have made in preparing for and organizing this very significant meeting.

The participants finally resolved that a vote of thanks be addressed to His Majesty King. Mohamed VI, for his kind sponsorship of this meeting.



Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum, Rabat, Morocco, April 25-26, 2018

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

Parliament, the Arab Parliamentary Union, the African Parliamentary Union, ECOWAS Parliament, and the Arab Maghreb Union.

Recommendations and Resolutions

-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 educa-



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

tion, 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.

-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 with updated information on food security and building bridges of communication between these bodies and the regional and international agen-

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 parliamen-



cies 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.

tary 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.



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.

Delegates from the following member and non-member countries attended the seminar:

- House of Councilors of Morocco;
- Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- Council of the Nation of the Democratic Republic of Algeria;
- Senate of the Republic of Burundi;
- House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;
- Senate of the Kingdom of Lesotho;
- Shoora Council of the State of Qatar;
- Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain;
- Council of States of the Republic of Sudan;

- National Council of the Republic of Burkina Faso;
- Higher Council of the State of Libya;
- Senate of the Republic of Ghana;
- National Council of the Republic of Ivory Coast;
- Legislative Council of the State of Palestine.

The seminar was also attended by representatives of the following regional and international parliamentary organizations and unions:

Arab Parliamentary Union;

Regional Office of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);

Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

Arab Parliament;

African Parliamentary Union;

Pan African Parliament;

Parliament of Latin America and the Caribbean;

Latin American Political Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Recommendations and Resolutions:

After two days of extensive and fruitful deliberations, interventions and discussions of participating delegates, the seminar came up with the following resolutions and recommendations:

- 1- The participants expressed their great satisfaction with the imple-



mentation of the Association's schedule of activities, which was approved during its 10th conference and 11th council meeting of the Association, held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco from 20-21 September 2017.

2-The participants expressed their satisfaction with the great success achieved by the Association in terms of extending and strengthening bridges of cooperation, coordination and communication with regional and international parliamentary organizations and bodies.

3-The Participants welcomed the application and desire of Libya, Kenya

4-The participants unanimously approved the charter of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World and considered it as a basic document of the seminar and resolved that Morocco will take over the chairmanship of the Network, recalling the essence of the initiative of adapting African agriculture to climate change, known as the "Triple A initiative", which was launched by His Majesty King Mohammad VI in the COP 22 climate change summit as an initiative that constitutes a tangible and unprecedented response to the common challenges of climate change.



and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to join the Association and urge the General Secretariat of the Association to continue to make further efforts to encourage more Arab and African countries to join the Association.

5-The representatives of the member councils of the Association of Senates, Shoora and equivalent councils in Africa and the Arab world welcomed the hosting by the State of Qatar of the meetings of the General Assembly at the 140th Session of the



Inter-Parliamentary Union and its associated meetings in Doha from 6-10 April 2019.

6-The Participants urge member countries of the Association to host ASSECAA's upcoming meetings and conferences, in particular the next ASSECAA's conference.

7-At the conclusion of the seminar sessions, the participants addressed a vote of thanks to His Majesty, King Mohammad VI, in which they expressed their immense gratitude to him for his kind sponsorship of this meeting and for the generous hospitality and warm reception accorded to delegates during their stay in the kingdom of Morocco. The participants also expressed their utmost appreciation and profound thankfulness to the House of Councilors as well as the government and people of Morocco for the warm reception accorded delegates and the genuine efforts they have made in preparing for and organizing this very significant event.

Rabat Declaration on National Reconciliation, Rabat, 17-18

January 2019:

After the presentations, discussions and extensive comments expressed during the "International Seminar on the experiences of national reconciliation" organized in Rabat, Morocco, on 17 and 18 January 2019 by the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco in partnership with the

Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World and the National Human Rights Council in Morocco, the participants recommend:

Inter-Parliamentary Union:

- Elaborate a framework paper on transitional justice policy in order to deepen the links between reconciliation, governance, human rights, sustainable development, peace, security and social justice;

- Prepare a guidebook on transitional justice

- Examine the possibility of creating a thinking group to prepare a guiding paper to accompany parliaments in different stages and paths of reconciliation in accordance to their constitutional roles.

National human rights institutions:

- If needed, sign memorandums of understanding between national parliaments and national institutions to enhance the role of parliaments in transitional justice processes in accordance to the Belgrade Principles;

- Elaborate a comparative study by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions on the laws enacted by national parliaments regarding the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms with recommendations to facilitate future law-making processes and to accompany recent and actual transitional justice experiences;

- Examine the possibility of devel-



oping guidelines on the role of parliaments and national human rights institutions in the reconciliation and advocate for a resolution from the UN Human Rights Council.

National parliaments:

- Prepare legislative texts related to reparation, justice and public policy monitoring from a transitional justice perspective;
- Strengthen existing monitoring

fore they happen

-Make sure to respect principles of collective reparation and equity during the discussion and ratification of the general budget of the State, in order to avoid tensions and to ensure the sustainability of social stability.

In conclusion, participants call on the Association of Senate and Shura Councils and equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World to:



mechanisms and expand their missions to include monitoring of human rights in general and monitoring of government actions regarding the implementation of the recommendations of truth and reconciliation bodies;

-Work on making the parliamentary institutions an open space for dialogue and a proactive mechanism to contain crises and warn of them be-

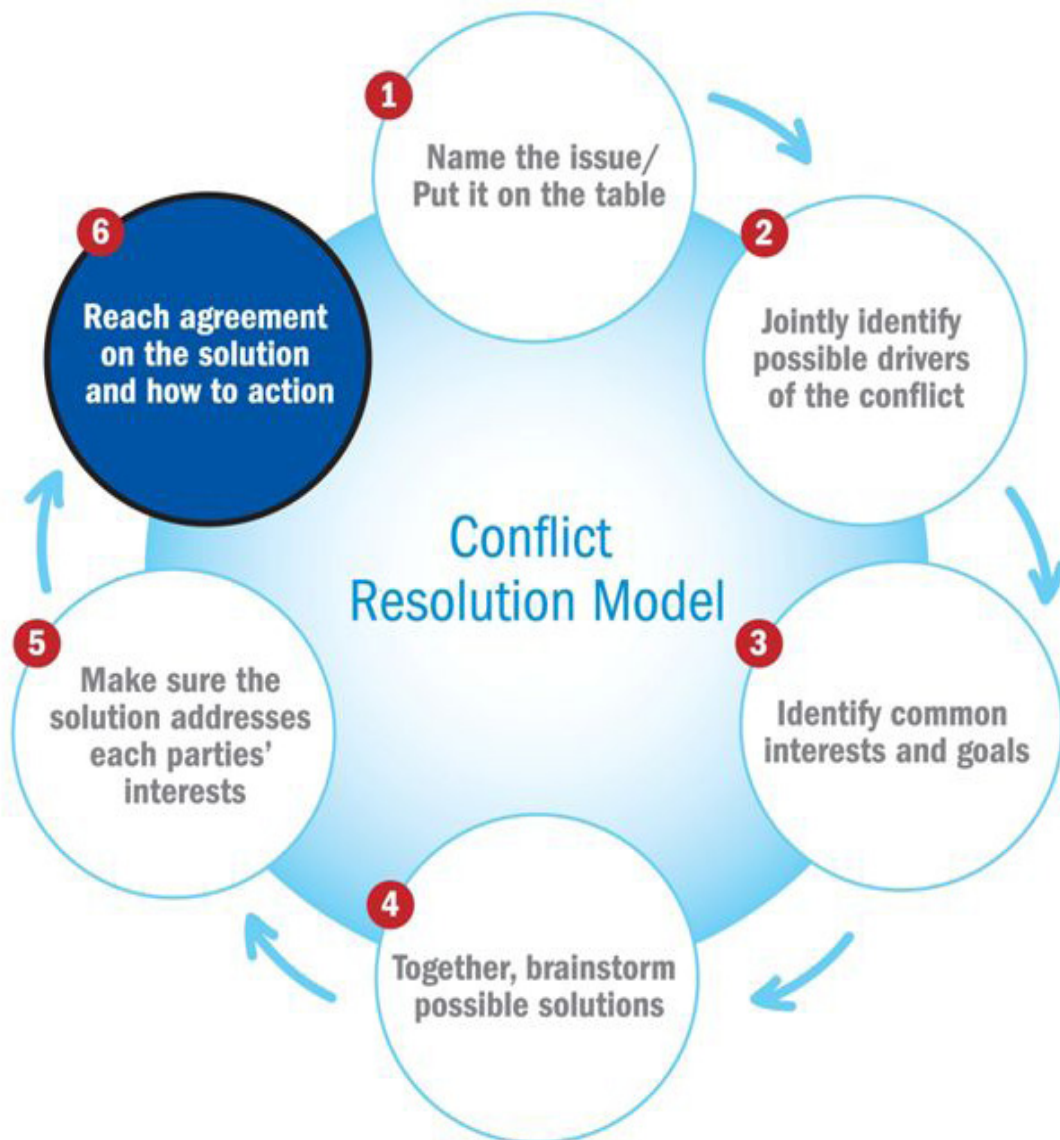
1. Present this Declaration to the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

2. Positively react to the Libyan delegation's call for the establishment of a technical committee on successful experiences in the field of transitional justice to help the brothers in Libya launch a national reconciliation dynamic.



Chapter Two

Conflict Resolution





Introduction

Peace means serenity and tranquility with the absence of disturbances, conflicts and wars; it also means preserving self, mind, birth, money and religion. It is a package of values, attitudes, customs, behaviors and procedures based on full respect for the principles of sovereignty, fundamental freedoms, human rights, dialogue and cooperation between peoples and cultures. It also involves rejecting the culture of violence and force and forcing people to make choices against their will. Peace is to live and let live.

Dispute means competition for values and resources, as competitors aim to neutralize, liquidate or harm the other opponent. It maximally culminates in violent conflict leading to war, about which philosopher Erimius says: "War is the only evil that is against all things, and war is the root of all problems and forces of evil." It is a bottomless ocean which swallows up all things. Because of war, all flowers and buds wither away, all healthy things dry up, destruction solely remains, and then the beautiful things get old and every sweet thing becomes bitter).

Since its inception, ASSECAA has been making unrelenting efforts at peace and conflict resolution in Africa and the Arab world in particular, and the world in its entirety.

Work-paper on Peace and conflicts in Africa and the Arab world presented by Dr. Habib Makhtoum during ASSECAA's 10th Conference-Rabat, Morocco, September 20-21, 2017

Our Africa and Arab region is witnessing the most violent conflicts and wars because of the hotbeds of conflict and tension caused by colonialism, as well as historical conflicts and disputes between some population groups, let alone marginalization, injustice and suppression to which some ethnic groups are vulnerable. Dispute over power and wealth has recently intensified within the national governments because of the ruling regimes' in compliance with the rules of democracy, good governance and human rights, transparency, accountability and balanced development.

Almost none of the countries in the region is free from internal or border disputes with either neighboring countries or a group of countries in the region. Neither are they immune to foreign interventions. The region has long been a theater for great powers in which to test war theories and mechanisms at times, and peace theories and mechanisms at others, which further intensified wars between brotherly and neighbor-



ing countries.

Threats to security and peace in the African and Arab region:

Direct Threats:

1. International, external interventions
2. Disputes between States
3. Disputes within States

Indirect Threats:

- Poverty leading to protests, displacement and migration
- Diseases (malaria, AIDS, TB, Ebola, etc.)
- Unemployment (Recourse to non-peaceful acts, rebellion, disobedience, etc..).
- Natural disasters (Climate



- Separatist movements
- Rebel movements
- Demand organizations
- Tribal and ethnic conflicts
- Terrorist movements
- Armed robbery gangs
- Trafficking in human beings
- Trafficking in weapons and drugs
- Unregulated migration

change)

- Injustice, tyranny and autocracy, leading to revolutions, protests and rebellion.

Examples of conflicts in the African and Arab region:

A) Middle East (Arabian Peninsula):

- Palestinian-Israeli conflict
- Syrian-Syrian conflict (intervention by the International Alliance,



Turkish intervention, Iranian intervention)

- Iraqi-Iraqi conflict (Iranian intervention, US intervention)
- The Lebanese-Lebanese-Syrian-Israeli conflict
- Gulf conflict (Saudi, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt and Qatar)
- Yemeni-Yemeni Conflict (Arab Alliance, Iranian Intervention, US Intervention)

- Terrorist movements (Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, Organization of the Islamic State(ISIS))

-Tribal conflict and rebel movements in Sudan

C) Central Africa: -

-Conflict in the Central African Republic between the Government and the Seleka, Anti-Balaka movements.

- Conflict in Democratic Repub-



- Terrorist movements (Al-Qaeda, ISIS, the Nasra Front, etc.)

B)North Africa: -

- Libyan-Libyan conflict (International Alliance)
- Moroccan-Sahrawi conflict (Moroccan Sahara)

lic of Congo, between the government and the Democratic Alliance for the Liberation of Congo.

- The Burundian-Rwandan conflict

- Conflict between Sudan and South Sudan

-Conflict between the SPLM fac-



tions in South Sudan

D) East Africa: -

- Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict
- Somali-Somali conflict
- Eritrean-Djiboutian conflict
- Somali Youth Movement

E) West Africa:

- Nigerian-Nigerian conflict
- Boko Haram movement in Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon
- Al-Qaeda organization and the the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) group, also known as ISIS, in Mali, Niger and Burkina

resolution in Africa and the Arab world:

- Developing the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union.
- Exerting efforts to develop the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- African and Arab Economic Communities
- Establishment of African and Arab financing institutions to finance strategic and development projects (African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, etc.)



Faso

F) South Africa:

- Conflict in South Africa
- Zimbabwean conflict

Self-exerted efforts at conflict

- Establishment of the African Peace and Security Council and its institutions
- Mediation committees on resolving disputes between countries.



- African Court of Justice and Human Rights
- Formation of African conflict resolution forces (peacekeeping forces)
- Issuing many resolutions rejecting the tyranny of regimes, protecting marginalized and oppressed groups and criminalizing military coups and rebel movements.
- Establishment of the African Center for Studies and Research on Terrorism
- New African Partnership for Development and its institutions.

Afro-Arab Future:

Scientists and the thinkers prepared several scenarios for the future of the African and Arab region, the most important of which are:

Re-colonization: Re-colonization of the region through the domination of the major powers in the region and reconsidering the political map of the region, with large entities having a dominant role in the region. The elites should replace the idea of new self-colonization with voluntary integration of the economic groupings currently prevailing in the region, with major powers taking responsibility for the advancement of the countries of the region and also taking care of their interests instead of domination

and control.

African and Arab Renaissance:

The marginalization of the African and Arab region for a long time is the throe that will lead to the birth and achievement of African and Arab renaissance based on self-cultural perspective. Western economic development that is contrary to our ideals and morals and imposed on us will lead us to further backwardness and dependency. The pattern of Western liberal democracy, which is contrary to our heritage and beliefs, will bring us false democratic regimes that are not convincing to our societies and are unable to achieve the desired peace and stability.

New Africa:

If Europe is considered as the continent most reflective of human nature and the fingerprints of history, Africa is the exclusively virgin continent. This means that Europe has become an old and a past history, and that Africa is the continent of promising future, which calls for initiating the redrawing of existing borders in line with the facts of nature and mankind, leading to the creation of a modern nation state. Thus, ruling political elites must have the will for future national planning.



Chapter Three

Good Governance





Introduction

Good governance makes for good decisions under the pressure of influential economic, social and environmental factors aimed at the public interest, including the preservation of property rights, political rights, access to services, economic freedom, access to information and prudent use of resources during service production processes. Good governance requires free elections, fair representation, an independent judiciary, an independent press, and laws guaranteeing human rights, state institutions under accountability and monitoring, and stimulating local development through participatory and decentralized decision-making.

Principles of Good Governance and Sustainable Development – a work-paper presented by Dr. Abdullah Mussa from the House of Dignitaries of Jordan during ASSECAA's 10th Conference, Rabat, Morocco, September 20-21, 2017

The concept of governance is not confined to the public sector, but extends to the private sector and society. There are various kinds of governance- general governance, economic governance and community governance.

Public governance provides guarantees, laws and regulations. Community governance provides the moral basis

for the processes, relationships and behavior within society. Economic governance provides the material basis for



such relationships and processes.

The adoption of the principles of good governance leads to the fair distribution of income and the preservation of the rights of the economically marginalized people in such a way as to financially and legally empower them to provide an atmosphere of well-being in society. It is known that per capita income is linked to the quality of governance in all countries of the world. The United Nations considered good governance one of the most important Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), given that it provides a framework for combating poverty and inequality. In this regard, it is worth noting that GDP does not necessarily reflect the safety of the economy and the well-being of the community, as it does not account for inequality in the



distribution of income or the quality of the environment.

Governance, which works for the common good, must be guided by the principles of human rights, democracy, transparency, participatory and decentralized development decision-making, and accountability, rule of law, fair effectiveness and strategic vision. It promotes gender equality, protects the environment, enables citizens to exercise their personal freedoms, and provides mechanisms to combat poverty, deprivation, marginalization, fear and violence.

Bad governance is that which unjustifiably takes official but random and illogical decisions contrary to operative laws, and is devoid of any fair procedures in terms of application. Mismanagement might result from incompetence of those in charge; it may well be intended to exploit public office to obtain personal benefits. Therefore, measures should be taken to reduce the damage to society from such managements by enacting laws that protect the community from their encroachment, such as:

- Anti-corruption law.
- Right to Information Act.
- Law guaranteeing the right to review official decisions when challenged by an independent body or the judiciary for the final approval of such decisions.

- An act providing protection to whistleblowers within different institutions.

- A Law to establish a body independent of the government and linked to parliament to prevent corruption and inefficiency and squandering of public funds (Court of Audit).

- A Law to establish reform and public sector development bodies, including regulatory and structural reform, and reduce red-tape and bureaucracy.

- A Law to prevent favoritism in public office appointments.

Below is a summary of the proposals for applying good governance by adopting the following principles:

- Commitment to integrity, adherence to ethical values and respect for the law:

Public institutions must establish regulations that reflect the values of the institution and a model code of conduct and disseminate them so as to show the relationship between the employees of the institution and the recipients of the service and/ or citizen stakeholders when making decisions or taking procedures, so that the law is strictly adhered to and interpreted Without bias. These regulations must be subject to constant review and scrutiny so as to ensure continued preservation of the values of the institution and that its decisions and procedures are



free from conflict of interest and corruption, especially in tenders, financial management, recruitment, promotion, expulsion and penalties.

To ensure continuity of institutional integrity, a system can be created that measures the extent to which this principle is applied, and, at the same time, and provides incentive rewards for exemplary behavior by linking moral performance and promotion.

It is expected that the public servant will carry out his/her duties in a timely manner with a great deal of attention, reflecting the values of his organization. Therefore, the application of professional standards and ethics and the optimal use of powers require training that qualifies employees to apply them, take responsibility and define the required and expected level of public employees' attitude towards the ethical problems they face at work, such as cases in which an employee is forced to take a decision or action that is not in his / her personal or professional interest.

In order to effectively implement this principle, a feedback system should be established that enables staff to report on the immoral behavior of employees, including administrators.

Receiving complaints from service recipients is an important part of the feedback system and must be dealt with effectively and efficiently through

specialized committees charged with registering complaints, following upon and reporting them to the administration. Complaints generally help determine the pattern of immoral imbalances and thus provide information to explain requirements and expectations.

Transparency:

It means the availability, clarity and dissemination of information to the public about the activities and programs of the government or its institutions so that the society can follow and understand decision-making processes in terms of the conditions under which they took place, including the foundations, studies, justifications and material and legislative requirements followed by decision-makers.

This approach gives government policies a kind of legitimacy in the public eye and paves the way for effective community participation in making suggestions or comments on those decisions or services.

Transparency is of particular importance to the private sector. Based on published information, it can make right investment decisions. It also plays a role in reducing corruption and increasing the efficiency of institutions. The subject of accountability is linked to this, which in turn depends on financial performance assessment or resource management.



Openness and participation: In view of the availability of information and the promotion of its dissemination through strong and free press and the establishment of an independent body to oversee elections so that interested stakeholders or citizens and civil society can participate in the process of decision-making on economic and social programs.

Institutions can develop different mechanisms to ensure participation, such as conducting surveys and referendums and interacting with the community through websites or direct meetings. In all cases, the institution

Implementation of this principle also requires developing bridges of co-operation between the institution concerned and other institutions through memoranda of understanding and information integration to improve service delivery.

Accountability: It enables the community to ensure that the decisions and actions taken by the government or institution are aimed at the public interest. The effectiveness of accountability is influenced by political processes, civil liberties and free press. Political accountability, such as the responsibility of ministers before deputies and



should establish a framework for reviewing and evaluating the public's experiences and responses about the efficiency and quality of services, thus striking a balance between the interests of those with higher vote percentages and the majority while taking into account the interests of next generations.

the responsibility of deputies before their voters/constituents, is known to enhance administrative accountability.

The application of this principle requires that the institutions issue reports and clarifications on the results of decisions taken by them on behalf of the community they represent or



serve, and that such reports, especially financial ones, are based on IPSAS. In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of institutions, it is necessary to clarify the limits and levels of responsibility within them.

Institutional capacity: It includes the meanings of efficiency and effectiveness that reflect the ability of the government or institution to allocate resources and prudent spending so that it can perform high quality services. In order to implement this principle, it is necessary to develop indicators for efficiency and effectiveness in relation to procedures and reduce the centralization of decision-making through a flexible administrative structure that can give the directorate more independence, providing that this be accompanied by more accountability, especially in relation to procedural matters. The administrative structure of the institution- both executive and non-executive- must clarify the relations between such two components so that it can be published and made available to all those concerned. To elevate the efficiency of the institution, this requires boosting the technical and managerial skills of the staff and general managers, something which constitutes an important part of the institutional capacity. This requires the development of ongoing training programs, given the continuous change in the skills required do the work. It

goes without saying that every executive must have the qualifications necessary to do his/her job. The highly qualified institutions are the ones that can benefit from the human resources and other resources and the time available to them. The administrative body in the institution must be given the opportunity to continue to the extent that it is expected to achieve the vision of the institution. The continuous change of the administrative body may lead to confusion in the management of the institution.

Identifying government outputs/inputs

The role of public institutions, the nature of their funding, their impact on society and the critical need for accountability require specific agreed-upon output targets in the light of economic, social and environmental determinants. This in turn results in decision- making, and financial planning that takes into account risks emanating from the lack of required levels of financial support, provided that this be accompanied by indicators for measurement and evaluation. In order to achieve the objectives of the institutions through their outputs, they must cooperate with the legislative institution to take decisions regarding the laws relating to taxes and public expenditure. Achieving public institution goals may require government interventions. In determining any



overlap, it is necessary to know how this overlap contributes to the achievement of the objectives, the risks and consequences, and its relationship with other relevant laws and funding for the implementation of such interference procedures.

Risk Management: This is by creating a strong management within the institution to monitor and control public expenditure management and produce reports analyzing the performance in detail compared to other institutions with the same objectives in the same country or in other countries, coupled with the development of indicators to show the extent to which the objectives are attained compared to what is planned.

With regard to sustainable development, the application of its principles will provide the basis for meeting the needs of existing societies without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfill their needs.

Accordingly, development policies should take into account the capacity of environmental resources to meet the immediate and future needs and achieve a kind of social justice through fair distribution of cost and benefits between generations and within each generation.

In 1992, in development and earth summit conference held in Rio de Janeiro and through (21) agenda , the

United Nations adopted the concept of sustainable development ; In 2000, the United Nations adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in which it emphasized environmental sustainability (Goal 7).

In 2002, a conference on sustainable development was held in Rioja; the conference stressed the commitment to sustainable development with the need to develop operational plans, and in 2015, which followed Rio + 20 conference, the United Nations held a conference which adopted the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and this agenda urges national governments to develop their strategies for sustainable development.

The implementation of the development goals, at the state level, may go through several stages, beginning with an exclusive study of the current situation and setting clear goals to each level of the executive departments, accompanied by criteria and indicators to measure the extent of achievement on time. The next step is to analyze the gap between the current situation and the expected situation; This should be accompanied by an explanation of the procedures and arrangements and the determination of the responsibilities within the institutions that are entrusted with the implementation of the programs and ensuring a high level of coordination. At the end of the study,



governments should develop their priorities according to their prevailing circumstances and needs through the adoption of national strategy for sustainable development; The 2030 Agenda is a framework for dealing with challenges as the targeted areas of economic and social activity, that leads to sustainable development, have been identified by the 2030 Agenda, so that, they are considered as indicative for their plans.

The identification of priorities depends on a thorough analysis of the development challenges, the problems that result from them, their extent, their continuity and their extension to future generations, and whether they extend or intersect with other countries.

In order to ensure the proper implementation of the development programs, we must ensure that there is a system of monitoring, following-up, accountability and participation that can be achieved through committees of citizens with interests such as the Committee on Development Policies which can be established in Parliament which is mandated to follow up and review the implementation of government programs and development policies. In addition, there is a need to establish a committee to be called the National Committee for Sustainable Development, to be chaired by the Prime Minister or the Minister responsible for following up the im-

plementation of the State Strategy for Sustainable Development; this committee should include members from the private sector, government and civil society.

It is necessary to form a committee of experts to coordinate and present studies and experiences to the two previous committees; this committee should include members of professors, researchers and scientists specialized in sustainable development and in other fields. The National Committee should work with all relevant ministries and institutions and establish a general framework for implementation, follow-up, review and reporting. The committee should set priorities, including government measures that respond to the challenges, in the means that, it sets a framework for coordination and integrity of work at all levels; Moreover, its decisions should be flexible during the review of the application in case of changes, particularly, with regard to the availability of inputs to the programs financially, politically and socially.

As an example of the follow-up and monitoring system, the African Union has developed a mechanism to review the strategies of national countries from other countries with expertise in the field. This is done by inviting representatives of international organizations such as the European Union, the World Organization of Francophone



and representatives of some States, as well as representatives of civil society and government. Such an arrangement puts the expertise of international organizations and participating countries on the table, which may produce recommendations for improving the performance in order to achieve the legislative, environmental and economic development goals. It can also get benefit from private sector's advisory bodies to explore the progress in implementing the strategy, whether national or international bodies provided that they should not participate in formulating or implementing that strategy.

Before going into some aspects and areas of sustainable development strategies, it is good to mention that good governance is a necessary requirement for sustainable development, which requires the existence of government institutions that respond to the needs of society, practice the rule of law without discrimination, fight corruption and pursue appropriate environmental, social and economic policies.

Some proposals on these areas include:

1) The field of natural resources: The economic activity of humans has a great impact on the integrity of environmental systems which provide the necessary materials for the continuity of this activity, causing a significant deterioration in the main elements of

natural resources such as water, land and living resources. Dealing with the elements of this field achieves the goals (15,14,6 , 2) of the 2030 Agenda, there are some proposals :

1. Providing legal protection for natural habitats and ecosystems in order to protect threatened species.
 2. Protection of agricultural land from erosion or deterioration.
 3. An efficient and responsible use for forests in order to protect their nature and areas.
 - 4 – Taking care for parks in urban areas.
 - 5 - Food production system should be competitive, flexible and friendly environment; Natural resources should be used in high and safe efficiency.
 6. Developing programs for water management aimed at increasing the efficiency of its use and developing their sources.
 7. Developing research and guiding programs for sustainable agriculture.
- 2) Energy and Climate: Dealing with this area achieves the development goals (13, 7, 1, 11) announced in 2030 Agenda, so that we propose the following:
1. Reducing the rate of emissions (particularly in developed countries).
 2. Reduction of per capita energy consumption.



3. Reduction of the per capita consumption of electricity.
- 4- Increasing the production of electricity from renewable energy sources.
5. Identifying the risks of climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol called on countries to reduce their carbon emissions; In addition, a mechanism was developed for the carbon market which makes gas emissions as a trade. This mechanism provides clean development and

capacity of ecosystems. Therefore, production and consumption processes should rely on the rational use of resources to reduce their degradation or pollution while minimizing harmful waste. This requires many governmental measures, tools and policies that promote the sustainable pattern of production and consumption, including the development of awareness and voluntary programs on safety, health and the environment resulting from the production or consumption of goods



puts developed countries in charge of reducing gas emissions and helps developing countries through technology transfer to reduce gas emissions in effective ways and reasonable cost.

3- Production and consumption:

Working in this area comes as response to Goal 12 of Agenda 2030. Economic development should be within the ca-

and materials.

Sustainable production should be supported through the provision of incentives for abilities building and investment promotion through the provision of loans, venture capital, technical assistance and training programs, especially for SMEs, to help the implementation of sustainable production initiatives. Countries should establish



an environmental accountability system , promote environmental and social responsibility of companies , and develop systems for managing and reducing waste and getting benefit from it through recycling or use it as a source for an energy.

4) Economic and financial aspect: Countries should work to provide a stimulating work environment for innovation and exploration and raise the social level of workers in various aspects of economic activity through the following:

- Ensuring that economic activity is not managed in a manner that does not take into account the interests of future generations.
- The financial system should be fair , competitive and transparent.
- Countries should develop mechanisms to reduce the impact of external factors on the economy.

5) Security and social cohesion: Social security enables members of society to participate effectively in economic and social life. It requires the integration of marginalized classes within the society, providing the necessary protection, reducing social violence against women, combating discrimination of all kinds, encouraging voluntary work, providing affordable housing and fighting poverty as an essential requirement for development, particularly in developing countries ; this can

be achieved through empowering the poor to access productive resources, services and public institutions, including water, land, employment, education and providing financial support through loans , finance and taking care of rural infrastructure , diversifying income resources in the countryside , improving transportation , providing training programs on sustainable agriculture techniques , combating desertification and reducing the effects of drought or floods.

Poverty has been shown to negatively affect the environment and impede the sustainable development. Moreover , it is important for countries to strengthen the trust between society and the State through promoting a sense of citizenship, universal identity, solidarity, participation in social and political life, fair distribution of development gains and provision of the services and goods needed by society under an independent and fair judicial system.

6) Civil Development and Infrastructure: Governments should limit the spread of informal cities, identify limited development zones, protect agricultural lands, forests and open areas from future development.

7) Architectural heritage, property and infrastructure should also be protected from natural or human hazards. Transport infrastructure and a public transport system should be strengthened and maintained.



Chapter Four

Food Security in Africa and Arab World





Role of Parliamentarians in achieving food security By: **Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayeb Assistant Secretary General for Political and Cultural Affairs**



Parliamentarians are critical partners in the fight to eradicate poverty and malnutrition, given their legislative, budgetary and policy oversight roles. They also represent an important stakeholder in the development process. Indeed, evidence has shown that the improvement in food and nutrition security is principally due to the implementation of policies, programs and frameworks that are anchored in appropriate legislation. Thus, parliamentarians are critical actors in establishing an enabling political and legislative environment to achieve food and nutrition security. The work of parliamentarians, which is critical for developing public policies based on scientific evidence, enables the creation of an effective and wide-ranging institutional framework

that can secure the right to food while guaranteeing a gender focus and more inclusive governance.

Parliamentarians have increasingly been engaging in debates both within and outside parliaments, as well as participating in the creation of national and international networks aimed at achieving food security.

Indeed, three key questions arise for parliamentary deliberation on areas for strategic action:

(a) How can parliaments and parliamentarians actively influence relevant local,

National and international processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation issues and communicate them as highly important for achieving food security in in Africa and Arab world?

(b) How to raise awareness and provide for incentives to enhance sustainable

Agriculture and rural activities in the two regions? (c) How to improve the quality of governance in agriculture in Arab and African nations?

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Conference on “Attaining the World Food Summit Objectives Through A Sustainable Development Strategy”, which was organized in cooperation with FAO, in Rome, Italy from 29 November to 12 December 1998, recom-



mended that the following measures be adopted by parliaments and their members in each country:

- Establish specific mechanisms to facilitate a systematic and coordinated follow-up at the parliamentary level of the commitments undertaken by States at the various world summits organized by the United Nations system in the last decade of this century including the 1996 World Food Summit;

- Harmonize existing laws and, as appropriate, adopt new legislation so as to develop a comprehensive legislative framework conducive to achieving food security for all;

- Utilize fully the parliamentary oversight function with a view to ensuring governmental compliance with the commitments undertaken at the World Food Summit;

- Work towards the establishment of national food security councils with representation from relevant governmental agencies, civil society, academia and the research community, the media and other groups;

- Hold a parliamentary debate on food security issues every year on 16 October, World Food Day.

- As regards action at the international level, the Conference recommends

Parliaments and their members, working through their world organization - the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to:

- Request the IPU to identify and make available information on parliamentary bodies that address agricultural and food security issues with a view to facilitating the sharing of relevant information and experiences between them, the IPU and the FAO;

- Mandate the IPU Committee for Sustainable Development to consider food security as an integral part of its work and to report on a regular basis on this issue to the Inter-Parliamentary Council;

- Invite the Committee, furthermore, to prepare, on behalf of the IPU, reports and statements on specific issues relating to food security for the attention of FAO and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development;

- Call on the IPU to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and FAO on the normative aspects of the right to food;

- Encourage the IPU and FAO to consider additional measures to strengthen further their co-operation in line with the Agreement concluded to that effect in 1997 with a view to promoting parliamentary action in support of food



security for all;

-Urge the IPU to monitor action taken by parliaments and their members on the basis of this Final Document and to report thereon at regular intervals.

Successful parliamentary alliances on food security

The recent successful experiences of the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pan-African Parliamentary Food Security and Nutrition Alliance have made an invaluable contribution to the global effort towards food security. Similar national and regional initiatives have also been implemented in other countries and regions, such as Spanish Cooperation, through its Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has forged close collaboration with Parliamentarians, building upon the experiences of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger for Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH LAC), which was established in 2009. FAO has since engaged Parliamentarians in Africa and Europe, which resulted in the Pan African Parliament establishing the Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (PAPA-FSN) and several members of the Eu-

ropean Parliament establishing the European Alliance 'Fight against Hunger.

FAO Remarks during the launch of the Parliamentary Network on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and Arab world by Ayman Omar, Senior Programme officer-Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa Rabat, January 17, 2019

Your Excellency, Abdelhakim Benchamach,

Speaker of House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace be upon you all,

It is a great honor for me to be with you today to share you this historic event of celebrating the official launch of the parliamentary network on food security and nutrition in Africa and the Arab world.

Your Excellencies,

Despite the remarkable progress on the reduction of hunger and malnutrition in the world till 2015, yet, the last three years have seen steady increases in hunger and malnourishment rates, as about 821 million people are suffering from chronic deprivation of food.

The situation of food security and nutrition in Africa and the Arab world is



more critical. For instance, the rate of people who suffer from lack of food security in Sub-Saharan Africa amounted in 2017 to 23% of the population. In the Arab world, the overall number was 9% and approximately 30% in the Arab countries experiencing conflicts.

Conflicts and climate change are

ment and the techniques employed in agriculture, animal wealth, fishing, and forests.

Your role, as parliamentarians, in achieving the sustainable development goals-especially Goal 2(elimination of hunger) as well as ensuring the provision of enough food for all,



among the main causes of lack of global food security, particularly in Africa and the Arab world. Studies indicate that the Arab and African regions will be among the areas most affected by climate change in the upcoming 50 years, which aggravates the challenges of food security and nutrition.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Business as usual would never enable us to achieve the sustainable development goals. Therefore, we should adopt a totally different approach that takes into account the close correlation between food systems and the environment, thus enabling a sustainable transformation by improving manage-

as a basic human rights is a significant and vital one.

You can effectively contribute to the elimination of hunger by enacting convenient legislation and overseeing policies and budgetary allocations, in addition to raising awareness among the social segments you are representing.

The outcomes of the global parliamentary summit against hunger and malnutrition held in Madrid in October 2018 emphasized parliamentarians' commitment to work towards eliminating hunger and ensuring the right to enough food for all.

Dear ASSECAA members,



The establishment of the food security and nutrition network in Africa and the Arab world is a great and significant step on the long road to the elimination of hunger and the achievement of food security and nutrition in Africa and the Arab world.

On behalf of FAO, I would like to congratulate you on this important progress, and to re-emphasize FAO commitment to offering full support to this network as is the case with all parliamentary networks that works on eradicating hunger in different world areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to express FAO's gratitude and its utmost appreciation to both the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco and your revered association for organizing this event as well as for your kind invitation to celebrate the launch of the network.

I pray that God give you and your emerging network success.

constituent charter of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security in Africa and the Arab World Considerations

-Keen to implement the resolutions in the final communiqué adopted by the Association of Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) during the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum: For building an integrated model for regional cooperation, which was held at the headquarters of the

House of Counselors in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 25 and 26 April 2018, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in particular, the resolution on the establishment of a parliamentary network for food security in Africa and the Arab world;

-In line with the intention expressed by participants in the Rabat Forum to highlight through the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World, the nature of food security issues faced by African and Arab countries, and to present proposals that would contribute to paving the way for joint parliamentary action undertaken by governments and other relevant sectors to support and encourage investments for the purpose of supporting and ensuring the sustainability, abundance and quality of food production;

-Taking into account that scientific studies and research have shown that in the next 50 years, the world will see a sharp decrease in food production necessary to meet the growing needs of its population, and that the rate of food production is not commensurate to the population growth;

-Considering that there are many obstacles to achieving the desired growth in terms of food production, especially those associated with drought, water scarcity, floods, soil erosion, desertification and the spread of diseases and epidemics resulting from climate change;



-Considering that these obstacles affect the stability of millions of citizens around the world, especially in the countries of the Southern Hemisphere, particularly in the Africa and the Arab world;

-Guided by the commitments made by the Speakers and Representatives of the Parliaments at the Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition in Madrid, Spain, on 29-30 October 2018, reaffirming the right to adequate, safe, sufficient, nutritious food and freedom from hungers and the acknowledged need for specific legislative and policy measures to ensure the enjoyment of those rights;

In order to contribute to the global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, the second goal on eradicating hunger by 2030, providing improved food security and nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, Member Councils of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalents Councils in Africa and Arab world hereby adopt the following constituent elements of the parliamentary network on food security and nutrition in the form of a draft charter :

I- Objectives

Article 1

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.

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.

II- Nature and Composition

Article 2

The Parliamentary Network for Food Security in Africa and the Arab World 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 awareness raising and submitting relevant studies and proposals

Article 3

The Network consists of representatives of senates, shoora and equivalent councils in Africa and Arab world. The



network's membership is open to national parliaments, and regional unions in Africa and Arab world. National parliaments and unions at the international level can gain an observer status after an application is presented to the executive bureau.

Article 4

Gender shall be taken into account when the network's organs are set up.

III-functions and powers

Article 5

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.

Article 6

The Network shall submit its proposals, requests and various perspectives to parliamentary organizations for the purpose of seeking guidance on its tasks according to its internal laws and regulations, as permitted by the constitutional provisions on its work, and those of national, regional and governmental bodies in Africa and the Arab world, as well as various international organizations and relevant United Nations bodies.

The Network will engage with existing food security networks and international bodies working on food security to ensure policies and international ef-

forts remain consistent and complementary; as well as generate technical and institutional support to strengthen the Network.

IV: Meetings

Article 7

The network shall hold rotational annual meetings in Africa and Arab world. The meetings' venue and date shall be determined based on a proposal from the executive bureau.

Article 8

The Network President is responsible for managing the deliberations and discussions of the network's meetings and represents the network at the regional and international associations of parliamentary networks for food security as well as relevant regional and international organizations.

Article 9

The agenda of the annual meetings shall be endorsed by a proportional majority, on the basis of a draft previously prepared by the Executive Bureau of the Network.

V-Executive Bureau

Article 10

The Executive Bureau of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security consists of:

- President of the Network
- Vice President
- Two Rapporteurs Secretary



Article 11

The Executive Bureau shall be elected during the Network's annual meeting. The Bureau shall elect from among its members a president, deputy president, two rapporteurs and a secretary.

Article 12

The term of office of the President and members of the Executive Bureau is two years renewable for one term. The responsibilities are periodically rotated between representatives of the Arab and African groups.

Article 13

If an Executive Bureau member is unable to attend a meeting, the National Council to which he/she belongs shall appoint another member as replacement.

Article 14

In the case of a vacancy in the post of President, the Vice-President shall replace the President until a new President is elected.

Article 15

The Executive Bureau, with the assistance of the General Secretariat of the Association of Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World, shall:

Prepare and disseminate draft agendas of the network meetings--

-Choose from among the topics on the agenda of the Conference those on which the Network will report;

-Ensure the normal functioning of the network and follow upon the implementation of the decisions taken by it

VI. Network Finance

Article 16

Organization and Participation Costs

- The parliament hosting the meeting of the network or the meeting of the executive office shall ensure the material conditions of the organization;

-On the proposal of the Executive Bureau, the network's member parliaments can be requested, when and if needed, to make financial contributions to cover the costs of organizing any of the Executive Office activities or meetings;

-The host parliament shall bear the costs of accommodation and local transport for each participant;

-National Councils shall cover their representatives' travel costs, except if the host parliament considers - for practical reasons or by way of in-kind treatment - the possibility of securing such costs.

Article 17: Languages

The Network adopts the following working languages; Arabic, French, English.

The Host Parliament shall ensure the translation of official documents and interpretation during the network's meetings.



Chapter Five

Culture





Cultural villages and their role in enhancing cultural cooperation

Introduction:

The Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab world (ASSECAA) has realized the importance of cultural legacy in boosting cultural cooperation, national identity and enhancing understanding and communication among nations, hence the proposal on the establish-

tries to set up a cultural village which can serve as a model for preserving civilizational and cultural legacy and encouraging cultural tourism in member states. Such a project can be undertaken in any member country, taking into account the cultural peculiarity of each country.

The project has economic and tourist values, as it plays a major role in preserving material heritage and protecting national identity.



ment of cultural villages in Africa and the Arab world.

The cultural village project is a robust vector for cultural activities. By reviewing international experiences in this regard, ASSECAA has taken full cognizance of the significance of cultural heritage and its influence on cultural cooperation and national identity.

Through this vital enterprise, ASSECAA seeks to encourage member coun-

Though there is a wide range of conventions and treaties on the conservation of cultural legacy, it was only in 1976 that the cultural tourism convention was promulgated. The pact identified the positive and negative impacts of cultural tourism on historic sites and landmarks. It envisioned the integration of cultural properties into an economic program to encourage respect for cultural legacy and protect its identity.



Cultural village project envisaged by Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, Professor of Archeology, Sana'a University

Project Name: Cultural Village

Concept:

The idea is to set up a typical cultural village that serves as a model to be followed in any member country, taking into account the distinct cultural and architectural components of each country.

Sponsors:

The following member countries of ASSECAA shall sponsor the project:

- 1-Yemen.
- 2-Algeria
- 3-Bahrain
- 4-Botswana
- 5-Burundi
- 6-Congo Kinshasa
- 7-Egypt
- 8-Ethiopia
- 9-Gabon
- 10-Jordan
- 11-Madagascar
- 12-Mauritania
- 13-Morocco
- 14-Namibia
- 15-Nigeria
- 16-Oman
- 17-Saudi Arabia

18-Qatar

19-Sudan

20-South Africa

21-Swaziland

They also include:

Official authorities concerned with cultural and legacy.

-Non-governmental organization concerned with culture and heritage.

-The private sector

Motto of cultural village: Cultural and tourist development -the future of cultural legacy

Many Cultures One Village --One Future

Definition of cultural village:

Cultural village can be defined as a permanent installation founded for the purpose of preserving the cultural legacy of a nation. It is a center for studying, assessing and reviving technical, architectural and cultural properties by utilizing modern technology to display them to the public. The purpose is to preserve national identity by using cultural symbols and elements to augment the knowledge of the public of their culture and surroundings.

This can be done by framing such elements in an attractive narrative style with an aim to augment the knowledge of the public of their culture and surroundings.

The project is highly important as it combines all cultural components in



one setting and can serve as a center for exchange of cultural experiences on arts, science and traditional crafts among ASSECAA's member countries.

The village can have resorts, hotels, various cultural buildings, in addition to markets, traditional handicrafts, and the environment, such as fauna , flora and aquariums of marine species.

Past experiences:

The term “Cultural village” is a modern one. It means preserving cultural and civilizational heritage, an approach which the UNESCO has adopted and encouraged in several countries.

Examples:

- Cultural villages in South Africa.
- Cultural villages in Saudi Arabia
- Cultural villages in the United Arab Emirates, mainly Dubai.

Cultural Village Program

<u>United Arab Emirates</u>	<u>Abu Dhabi Cultural Village</u>
<u>Kenya</u>	<u>Gichocho cultural village</u>
<u>Kenya</u>	<u>Korogochico Peace Africa Cultural</u>
<u>Laos</u>	<u>Cultural Village</u>
<u>Papua New Guinea</u>	<u>New Ireland Cultural Village</u>
<u>Papua New Guinea</u>	<u>Nissan Island Cultural Village</u>
<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Mangatowai Marae Cultural Village</u>
<u>Timor</u>	<u>Leste Los Palos Cultural Village</u>
<u>Australia</u>	<u>W orawa and Ulupna Cultural villages</u>
<u>Australia</u>	<u>Y Iramalay/Wesley Studio School, The Kimberly</u>
<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Bat Trang, Hanoi Cultural village</u>
<u>India</u>	<u>Cultural villages: Kerala , West Bengal, Karnataka</u>
<u>Japan</u>	<u>Yokohama cultural village</u>
<u>Glo bal</u>	<u>Go Play Creative Playgrounds</u>
<u>Kenya</u>	<u>Gichocho cultural village</u>

Justifications:

Most Arab and African countries are notorious for neglecting their cultural and architectural legacy. More often than not, such countries tend to eradicate historic sites and replace them with modern buildings that lack both identity and character. It seems that those countries, mainly Yemen,



are unaware of the importance of architectural heritage in proving national identity and preserving our timeless history.

Renovations on and documentations of historic milestones have so far fo-



cused on main cities rather than villages that abound with archeological sites. Besides, people's awareness of the importance of cultural heritage is so weak, which reflects negatively on their ability to develop and exploit same.

Therefore, the project is designed to collect and preserve the Yemeni cultural heritage, in addition to projecting its components in such a way that makes it sustainable and immortal.

The drive also envisions proposals to revive some ancient historic sites within the cultural village, in addition to laying out mechanisms to achieve this objective as a preliminary step to implementing the project in other

member countries.

- Preservation of cultural identity

- Economic factor

- Tourist attraction

- Exchange of cultural and scientific visits among member countries.

Significance of the project:

ASSECAA is interested in the cultural village project, which is regarded as a key economic, cultural and tourist resource on which local communities can depend (for their livelihoods). The development of such villages would contribute to sustainable development as well as the encouragement of small and medium projects to the benefit of citizens and investors.

The project aims to operate hotels, well-furnished apartments, restaurants and transport means, reduce the internal immigration of citizens from rural areas to main cities, and achieve balanced development. It also seeks to revive traditional handicrafts and industries as well as non-material legacy prevailing in villages, in addition to engaging locals in rehabilitating and developing their own villages in such a manner that reflects positively on villagers and investors.

The drive shall enable the government to invest in such villages for a specific period of time, thereby generating new incomes and encouraging investors to set up ventures and development projects. It seeks to create "Cultural vil-



lage development fund” with the goal of providing the financial resources necessary rendering social services.

The project would represent a unique experience that gives tourists and the general public the chance to learn about various cultural elements during weekends and summer holidays. It can serve as a cultural resort devoid of pollution resulting from factory smokestacks , car exhausts and traffic jams.

exchange cultural and tourist visits.

- To educate youth and children on their cultural identity, build their characters and instill nationalistic and humanistic concepts into rising generations.

- To hold cultural training courses on handicrafts and artifacts.

- To set up permanent and temporary artistic and legacy-related exhibitions.

- To encourage exchange of experienc-



It would finally provide job opportunities to unemployed youths.

Objectives:

- The project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To preserve cultural identity

- To propagate and further deepen legacy culture.

- To encourage the general public to learn about cultural heirloom.

- To attract tourists to visit local communities.

- To encourage member countries to

es and visit among ASSECAA’s member states.

Location:

- Standards for selection of tourist project location:

The layout plan of cultural villages differs from that of other housing units. There are several factors that should be taken into consideration while planning such a kind of villages. These include feeling free, psychological comfort, harmony with nature, and the optimum exploitation of environmental elements.



Location features:

Location area and parameters :

-Selection of location:

1-The location should be naturally attractive and appealing.

2-It must have awe-inspiring components with high degree of visibility.

3-Climate factors should be taken into account while selecting the venue.

4- Infrastructure and basic services should be available, such as sanitation, fresh water, and power generating stations.

-Accessibility

-The typography of the location should be kept intact.

The venue should be selected based on layout plans and designs in a way that fits the nature of the project.

-Location Layout Plan:

The project's layout plan should be set out in a manner that shows the different stages of the project.

The plan should take into account the following guiding principles:

1-Creating a distinctive cultural and tourist environment conducive for the location's terrains and climate.

2-The layout plan of the cultural village should cover tourist areas such as gardens, parks and resorts.

3-If the cultural village is to be established in a coastal area, then the place must be an open-air tourist attraction depending on the nature of each tourist activity.

4- Cultural and tourist places should be connected by road networks, pedestrian passageways, hotels and inns.

5-Opportune climate, public services, and local raw materials and the maximum use of spaces should be taken into account while planning the location.

6-The village infrastructure , including road networks, fresh water and sanitation, should fit the area's terrains.

7-The design should conform to cultural village planning rules as well as the terms and conditions set by the competent authorities.

Area :

The project's area should be determined based on architectural designs as well as the potentials of the countries concerned.

Note:

Climate elements should be considered while selecting the best location for the project.

constructive and architectural conditions:

The establishment of cultural village is based on bringing all cultural and heritage elements in one place , so that we can take advantage of these elements in order to establish dynamic and continual complex , and create cultural , development , tourist and economic movement that can benefit the society and cultural heritage .The aim of this is to create cultural awareness of the importance of the heritage , as well as , to establish environment conducive to preservation of cultural heritage and



promotion of tourism .

Planning of the village :

Conducting a graphic and designing studies for the cultural village to show if it is appropriate to measurement indicators of civilized heritages projects .

The architectural planning of tourist **village :**

1-If the project's site is on the sea coast , most of the units should be overlooking the view of the coast (to enjoy the view of the sea) , air , also , shall permeate to the back units of the project ; the same case should be applied in mountainous areas .

2-The internal movement of the project should depend on the motion of pedestrians (walkers) only .

3-For other units which are not overlooking the sea or mountains, other services should be provided such as swimming pools , industrial lakes , parks and grandstands .

4-Visual successions of the area should be considered; the panning and patterns of buildings should not be incompatible to the line of sky and mountains surrounding the area .

5-The plants and trees , used in outside arrangement , should not block the eyesight of the sea (vision) , air should pass through the back units of the project.

6-The future buildings and extensions should be taken in consideration (if the project was in stages) without causing any impact on the planning of

the project .

7-The design of the project should be in harmony with the surrounding environment and the local style (order) , so that the tourist can live in real environment .

Master plan :

The idea of planning is based on establishment of heritage village that consists of natural elements of the local environment in its different components , mountain , coast and desert where there are a set of basic administrative buildings , services and cultural buildings .

This project is characterized by its traditional aesthetic heritage touch in all sides , especially in the area chosen for implementing the project , in addition to the adoption of traditional Yemeni architectural design (style) in its different patterns when establishing the facilities whether cultural , service or administrative .

The architectural design should be in good use of local raw materials , as well as local cultural particularity of building and adornment should be taken in consideration .

After the completion of the project , it is supposed that there are administrative units to accommodate citizens within the administrative area where the buildings forms only 10 % of the total area of the cultural village .

We can distinguish between two main areas in the scheme of the cultural village :



1-The village's center

A wide flat area should be in the center of the project (to be estimated from the total flat area of the project) that includes all services available in the village .

The planning of the center is based on the provision of the maximum direct and face-to face interactions through

-Private activities such as restaurants, cafes and shopping centers .

-Sport and recreational (entertainment) activities .

-Parks

The services of the center can be divided into :

a-Basic services :



the meeting of intellectuals , users and visitors each other in an informal environment (away from work) and through performing various activities that include :

-Cultural activities.

-Showrooms.

-Conferences & seminar halls.

-Indoor and outdoor theaters.

-Popular specialized markets (Souks).

-Handicrafts.

-Heritage museums.

-Historical museums .

-Heritage music house .

The services that support the main activity of the tourist village (cultural activities) directly .

-Information & guidance services center.

-Preservation and documentation center.

-Main center for conferences and meetings to be furnished with high level technique equipments.

-Businessmen service center which provides offices for rent (either by hours or day) and includes all secretarial services.

-Center for legal, financial , and administrative consultancies that renders



services for public companies (such as establishment and registration of the companies) .

-Press center that covers , immediately, all events of telecommunication sector in Yemen , in addition to international events .

-Five stars hotels .

-Four stars hotels.

-Three stars hotels.

-Center for international exhibitions (with high level equipments) .

-Center for reception, meetings and parties to serve the residents, visitors and guests of the village.

-Library (traditional and electronic).

-International Post office and shipping center .

-Center for publication , printing and translation .

-Photocopying service center and electronic printing .

-Center for photography and live broadcasting.

-Think thank café.

-Tourist offices.

-Transport & airlines offices provides the following services :

- Shopping center (includes restaurants and shops to serve the visitors and workers inside the cultural village .

- Cars –renting service (buses , taxi ,from and to the airport)

- Express bus services.

- Cleaning & maintenance services us-

ing the modern techniques .

- Hotels and hotel apartments to receive visitors and tourists .

- Medical center and pharmacies .

- Provision of security center supported by technological means and modern



monitoring equipments.

- Provision of internal sport and entertainment buildings in addition to tennis courts, volleyball, basketball and internal and external

Swimming pools,

- Creative Forum and reception centers on both sides of a major hub to enter the center area , and at the same time to separate the two sets of basic services and assistance, both scopes should be separated but on the same space connection.

2- Area of Cultural activities

It forms the rest of the project's area that surrounds the center and includes all administrative and service buildings for the project .It forms also the location of the main activity of the cultural village .



This area is collection of portions of lands distributed in large flat of green areas that are divided into groups in different sizes .

It is preferred that there are three models for proposed buildings ; enough flexibility will be provided in implementation of architectural design provided that it should be in line with the public design of other facilities of the cultural village .

Relation between the center and the area of cultural activities :

The center of the village should be - geographically - at the heart of the project in order to be in direct connection with all sites of cultural ,heritage and entertainment activities .

Green areas and open parks should occupy large area of the flat areas in the center of the village and the area of cultural activities.

The different uses in the center of the cultural village should be interrelated and shall support the direct social interactions, where no restrictions should be made to these different uses .

The use of lands should be prepared according to the ratio of the their flats areas as follows :

- Green and open areas .
- Roads system .
- Administrative areas (productive areas) .
- Basic cultural and heritage services as follows :
- Cultural &arts exhibition center

-Large conference hall .

-Indoor and outdoor theaters & popular theaters .

-Heritage museum (ancient and Islamic) , folklore museum .

-Popular markets and handicrafts area .

-Visitors service center & reception center .

-Sport & recreational area .

-Trade activities.

-Religious activities.

-Green areas .

-Aesthetic Sculpture .

Stages of implementation of the project :

The project of cultural village can be implemented into two phases :

1-First phase 2014 – 2019

2-Second phase 2020

First stage :

It includes the basic buildings required for providing services for the people of the village , such as business center , conferences , exhibitions and restaurants , in addition to leased buildings and lands ; it should be ready in 2018 .

Second stage :

It will include the remaining pieces of lands with other leasing offices, as well as other buildings such as marketing center and hotels with their sport facilities.



Chapter Six

Empowerment of Women





Introduction

Women play a critical role in the achievement of sustainable and economic development. In Africa and the Arab world, women form the backbone of the agricultural sector and food production systems, making up the bulk of agricultural workers. Statistics indicate that eight out of 10 agricultural workers in Africa are women and in Asia six out of 10 are women. An estimated 60 per cent of chronically hungry people are women and girls. In some communities, women and girls often eat last and least, due to economic and cultural barriers. Thus, there must be addressed the structural inequalities that women face to their status, rights, access to resources and agency. Further, great efforts real freedoms, capabilities, opportunities, and agency of women to grant food security for all, and gender-equitable societies. Most significantly, we must help women get heavily involved in political life by appointing them to decision-making positions.

Out of belief in the importance of enhancing women's empowerment in Africa and the Arab world, ASSECAA organized a meeting for women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world on the sidelines of the Afro-Arab Economic Forum in Rabat, Morocco, April 25-26, 2018.

The meeting deliberated exten-

sively upon the role of women in economic and sustainable development, and recommended that women should be economically and politically empowered by giving them the opportunity to engage in business ventures and assume leadership positions. It also formed a parliamentary network of businessmen/women in Africa and the Arab world with the key objective of establishing a parliamentary and economic diplomacy to explore ways to enhance Afro-Arab economic cooperation in a strategic, participatory and integrated perspective based on the strengthening of economic, commercial and human ties between Africa and the Arab World.

Work-paper on the Role of Women in Economic Growth and Sustainable Development presented by the Council of states of Sudan during the Afro-Arab Economic Forum, Rabat, Morocco, 25-26 April, 2018

In view of the religious commands to live constructively and to pursue one's halal livelihood, women have participated in economic activity. The state has helped enhance women's economic role by developing a national policy to empower women in all fields of endeavor, including the economy. Economic empowerment refers to the capacity of men and women to participate in and contribute to the process of growth and development. It involves the



appreciation of their contributions, and respecting their dignity, in addition to the advantages they derive from the equitable distribution of the benefits of growth. Women economic empowerment is an important pillar of economic growth and sustainable development.

- The UN Millennium Development Goals Report shows that women constitute the majority of the poor due to income disparity, scarcity of resources, lack of social protection, and limited access to assets, credit, technology, and markets.

- Economic empowerment is a key axis of the national policy of women empowerment. Major challenges are faced due to interdependency of the various political themes.

Economic empowerment can be achieved through a chain of multiple and integrated interventions, covering the legal, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions. Therefore, it was assigned a separate environment. An overall strategic objective, a set of sub-objectives, and implementation policies were developed, and will be translated into an action plan consisting of several programs and projects determined on the basis of key issues and priorities. The main priorities are gender inclusion in holistic and sectoral policies, legislations, and budgets, as well as supporting vital arenas and needy women groups. The For-

mulation of these goals is based on an analysis of the current situation. Both achievements and gaps in various aspects of economic empowerment were identified.

•Overall Strategic Objective

Empowering women economically to enhance their participation in the economic activity and their contributions to domestic income, as well as to help eliminate all forms of economic discrimination against women and reduce disparity in power relations.

Specific objectives:

Quantitative and qualitative transformation through intellectual development to eliminate all kinds of economic discrimination and to capitalize on creative skills to achieve equitable economic empowerment of women.

- Building an administrative, legal, regulatory, and service environment that enhances women - especially vulnerable groups - economic empowerment in the public, private and unorganized sectors.

- Enhancing women's participation in public and private sector planning and implementation.

- Emphasizing women's exercise of their rights of access to investment assets and resources, including their sharia-ordained inheritance shares.

- To boost women's efficiency



and involvement in entrepreneurship within the framework of self- and institutional employment, as well as in cooperative societies and community sector, especially vulnerable groups.

- To highlight the role of the media in promoting women's economic issues.

Policies

- Raising social awareness of the equitable empowerment of women.

- Providing technical, financial and service consultations to promote women's access to and optimal utilization of economic resources.

- Rehabilitation and building the capacities of women, especially vulnerable groups, through technical and vocational training.

- Reforming holistic, financial and monetary policies to introduce incentives of women's economic empowerment.

- Enacting and enforcement of laws and regulations that guarantee equitable women's access to the labor market and reforming existing restrictive legislations.

- Codification of women's work in the unorganized sector within a formal framework and facilitating women's involvement in this sector, taking into account their circumstances and positive role.

- Reforming and enacting labor laws on the public and private sector employment practices to facilitate women economic empowerment, including enjoyment of all insurance benefits (paid maternity leave and childcare at the workplace).

- Reforming production and service sector policies such as commercial policies, including border trade, as well as the agriculture and investment sectors.

- Supporting women's gradual advancement in senior leadership roles to enhance their participation in planning, policy development and decision-making.

- Raising women's awareness of their legal rights in relation to economic activity.

- Providing legal protection of women to enable them to enjoy their rights, including their sharia-ordained shares in relation to economic activities.

- Offering specialized entrepreneurship training opportunities.

- Providing codified economic opportunities for women in rural and urban areas in the public, private and unorganized sectors.

- Distributing land property (suitable for agricultural, livestock, pastoral and fish production) and issuing land ownership deeds.

- Setting up women's cooperatives



and production, processing and marketing associations.

- To boost financing of women's enterprises of all types, including micro, small and medium enterprises, and facilitate security required for supporting cooperative societies.

- Provision and improvement of social services (education, health, environment, roads, bridges, connectors) to enhance women's productivity.

- Expanding the base of production and service sectors.

- Building the capacities of productive and businesswomen in marketing, technology and business transactions at the national and international levels.

- Supplying marketing windows of women's products, including domestic and international exhibitions.

- Media promotion of gender equity and gender integration into the economic field.

- Encouragement of women to highlight their economic achievements in the media along with the media promotion of the national policy of women empowerment.

Economic pillar:

- Viewing women's economic and labor issues from a holistic perspective in connection to gender-

inclusive economic activity.

- Inclusion of gender issues in privatization policies and remedying negative effects on women, such as the limited opportunities and options of access to the labor market and their impact on subsistence and household economic conditions.

- Paying attention to the impact of taxes on the financing of individual enterprises and the ways it affects productivity.

- Inclusion of gender in labor policies to reduce challenges to accessing the labor market, to enable women in general and female graduates in particular to get access to the labor market and empower them economically;

- Establishing a legal framework that guarantees profit to women employees and workers, creating jobs which meet their skills, and guaranteeing gender equity in training and rehabilitation.

- Taking into account the rate of women employed in the various sectors (33% of total employment according to the 2008 census data). Unemployment rate among female graduates in the various disciplines is higher than that of males. Women's access to economic opportunities shall be one of the top five political priorities of gender equity.

- Traditional linear budget affects



the process of economic empowerment. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that gender parity in the proper scientific sense is met in the budget as it impacts application of gender policies in all relevant sectors. Financial federalism shall also be adopted as it directly influences the implementation of policies.

-Strengthening the economy of household care as an effective economic component in the empowerment process and also is closely linked to gender balance.

- Promoting the concept of gender mainstreaming into development by integrating women as men and achieving the objectives of highlighting their roles in development as contributors and beneficiaries. The focus is not only on developing a separate plan for women in economic activities, but also at the policy level.

- Application of transparency and accountability criteria and compliance with the provisions of Labor Law in terms of equal pay for equal work and promotion of higher positions and the right of training for all groups.

- Working to legalize the secondary sector and adherence to appropriate work conditions in accordance with the labor legislation in the public sector and encouragement the conversion of some of the practiced activities to activities that support the

economy through entrepreneurship and providing financing that commensurate with the volume of activity practiced.

- Taking into account the fact that women should enjoy full- paid maternity leave of eight consecutive weeks. An exception must also be given in the case of hard childbirth and the birth of more than one child. Mother should be granted also a paid leave if there is need for her child to stay at the hospital at the time of breast-feeding.

- Obligating the employer to establish a suitable place in the institution under the supervision of a qualified nanny to care for the children (under the age of four years) of women workers in order to implement the positive discrimination labor laws for women, especially in the private sector.

- Encouraging the development of policies to ensure the sustainability of available resources , and including considerations of the use and utilization of these resources by women and men as there is disparity between the use of available resources by men and women, as well as differences in the definition of patterns of production and consumption.

- Empowerment of rural women to improve their situations by acquiring



Entrepreneur and businesswoman project (Entrepreneur):

The project is designed for women entrepreneur and businesswomen to explore the creativity and innovation of women business leaders and in all areas of investment and business (export, import and border trade).

Target group: Young women , women who have no experience , creative women, and businesswomen who have multiple experiences; They will get intensive training courses .

Partners: University of Sudan - Center for Entrepreneurship and Self Employment, Family Bank , Entrepreneurship Training Center, Business Women's Secretariat, Women in different Chambers of the Employers Union, Exporters and Suppliers Union, National Federation of Sudanese Youth, any other community-based organizations including leaders , entrepreneuretc.

Work Methodology : Training in entrepreneurship, supporting some innovations and leading business policies through guidelines and facilities in the fields of investment , trade and marketing.

Rural Women's Project: it is similar to the national project for the development of rural women, with focusing on economic empowerment

including training and financing . Rural women who is working in the traditional rain agricultural sector and cash sector will be provided financing in the form of good loan or microfinance in agricultural sector, both vegetable and animal, as well as agricultural products manufacturing , either vegetable or animal farming ; This project is also aimed at encouraging the pastoral women.

Target group: Poor rural women under any legalized organization, whether the law of agricultural & animal production profession or law of cooperation and other laws of investment.

Partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of livestock wealth , counterpart ministries in the states of Sudan , any civil society organizations capable of creating initiatives in agricultural, livestock and pastoral production in the countryside (Sudanese Women's General Union, Development Operations institution , etc.)

Methodology of work : Provision of non-monetary services including knowledge and skill training and financial services (Finance, savings, insurance, etc.), then the ownership of assets for manufacturing agricultural and animal products, land ownership and protection of pastoral roads for the safety of pastoral



women and their products.

The traditional business development project : It aimed at revival and protection of heritage and handicrafts products in order to improve their quality and increase competitiveness .

Target group: Creative women who is working in the traditional Sudanese handicrafts made from (palm, pumpkin, pear l, beads, leather, etc.).

Partners: Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Industry, community development colleges, national organizations .. etc .

Methodology of work: Conducting survey , identifying and classifying these professions and their geographical locations ; providing training for workers and employees ; Marketing .

Annex No. 3

Current situation: Since the economic empowerment is one of the axes of national policy axes needed to empower women and set up a strategy for women in the economic aspect, we have taken advantage of the analysis of the situation of women, which was conducted to know the situation of women in all aspects, including the economic aspect ; the SWOT analysis used includes the internal and external environment so that the strategy meets the needs of women.

Strength points :

- Legislations and laws that serve the issues of women in economic aspects
- Active Participation of women in all economic areas.
- Women's Cohesion and their involvement in community entities that serve their economic issues.

Weaknesses:

- Conceptual weakness for gender issues in general and in economic aspects in particular.
- Weakness of women capabilities in Planning, implementation and resource management.
- Poor knowledge of their general and economic rights, especially how to protect these rights. –
- Illiteracy among women.

External environment

A-Opportunities:

- State interest in women and recognition of their active role in all aspects including economy.
- Signing of regional and international agreements that support women, such as the African Agenda 2063 and sustainable development goals 2030.

B. Threats:

- Poverty and economic pressures and their impact on women.
- Conflicts, wars and the high rate of women family supporters.

Chapter Seven

The Role of Parliaments in Achieving National Reconciliation and Transitional Justice in Africa and Arab World





Introduction

National reconciliation is one of the important pillars needed for countries emerging from the civil wars or internal conflicts that threaten the fabric and unity of society and lead to disintegration and division. Therefore, there must be an actor within the country that undertakes the task of national reconciliation. The legislative authority has great importance and influence on the structure and fabric of the society, therefore parliaments should take the task of national reconciliation as one of their priorities and main tasks in order to preserve national unity through the adoption of many means and mechanisms that promote the concept of national reconciliation.

Given that transition periods are often characterized by a wide range of political, economic and social challenges that have a major impact on the success or failure of the reconciliation process and transitional justice, Parliament has many mechanisms and ways to promote reconciliation in the transitional period ; the presence of a parliament, representing all segments of society as a platform for free expression and exchange of opinions and ideas , is considered as evidence that reconciliation is proceeding successfully. Parliament plays an important role

in national reconciliation, whether through direct role such as representation, legislation and oversight , so that many issues are submitted to the legislature for consideration, such as amnesty, the new electoral system, representation of minority groups in parliament, and civil oversight on the security sector, or its indirect role through establishing, monitoring and reviewing mechanisms for reconciliation, , such as truth commissions , reparation ,compensation for victims, justice reforms and trials . Accordingly , parliament is an institutional structure necessary for the process of national reconciliation. In addition, it is important that parliament gets benefit from regional and international expertise to find the best ways to achieve national reconciliation and reach the best results.

Out of keenness to achieve national reconciliation and transitional justice in Africa and the Arab world, ASSECAA's General Secretariat, in cooperation with the House of Counselors of Morocco, and the Human Rights Council of Morocco, held the international seminar on the experiences of national reconciliation in many countries from January 17-18, 2019. Below are the work-papers and/or interventions made by participants in the seminar.



Intervention on “Reconciliation from the perspective of transitional justice” made by Mahjoub al-Hiba, professor of higher education, former ministerial representative in charge of human rights, at the International Seminar on National Reconciliation Experiences, Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco, 17-18 January 2019

Initial Notes:

Many countries around the world, especially the African ones, are experiencing periods of violent crises that entail not only political instability, but sometimes also an impact on the social fabric and threats to social ties. To cope with this situation, a number of tracks are usually involved in coping with the crisis and exiting it. In general, these tracks fall into what has become widely known as transitional justice.

The definition of transitional justice, its contents and its mechanisms are a subject of discussion and sometimes controversies, since the facts that it encompasses and the mechanisms it adopts define a great diversity across the world. However, by adopting the definition of UN Secretary-General (his 2004 report to the Security Council), it is possible to agree that the concept of transitional justice encompasses the entire range of operations and mechanisms associated with community attempts to understand a legacy of past abuses in order to ensure account-

ability, justice and reconciliation. (..) “.

First: the conditions and requirements of transitional justice for smooth reconciliation

Second: Actors (Effectiveness Ground)

Third: Hypotheses or conditions of transitional justice

Fourth: Challenges

First: Conditions and requirements of transitional justice for smooth reconciliation:

In general, transitional justice mechanisms must be linked and adapted to the context of the state in which they are adopted. They are often based on four major principles that focus on the standards of public international law, in particular international human rights law, international humanitarian law, national law and constitutional law.

First, the right to justice

The right to justice is the first of these mechanisms. In order to bring perpetrators of serious violations to justice, the selection of the competent judicial body is a strategic matter. It may concern a permanent international judicial body such as the International Criminal Court or a special international tribunal such as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda or a hybrid or international judicial body, such as the Cambodian Court or a national judicial body.

Second: Revealing the Truth

The search for truth or right to truth often goes through investigations by



truth and reconciliation commissions that collect information, data and testimonies prepare reports and formulate recommendations.

The third principle: Reparation of damages

Reparation is a victim's right and the State's obligation, which is translated in various forms, including mainly redress for victims (material and financial compensation, property restitution, measures to rehabilitate the victim, symbolic measures to preserve memory ...).

Fourth: The right to reforms and non-repetition

The right to reforms or guarantees of non-repetition is a fundamental guiding principle for building the future, restoring confidence in law and institutions, and strengthening the social fabric.

Second: The nature of actors in transitional justice

In view of the requirements of the principles of transitional justice mentioned above, these latter fall fully within the framework of the emergence of new actors of justice. Transitional justice in itself is a new actor of justice, in that it is a renewed form of urgent justice. The whole process of defining responsibilities, justice and reconciliation is also an indication of the emergence of a new actor in conflict or post-conflict

in the international arena. Transitional justice also depends on the mobilization of other actors, institutional or non-institutional.

As for the first category, Africa represents a real diversity of experiences. The institutions that are mobilized vary according to the nature and contexts of the crisis by involving judicial, quasi-judicial and non-judicial actors of transitional justice. Thus, transitional justice experiences in Africa that exceed 20 in number show that truth commissions, International or international fact-finding or jurisdiction, as well as customary justice, are all actors in uncovering the truth and re-establishing national dialogue. Civil society (non-governmental human rights organizations, women's defense associations, professional associations) and, of course, victims at the heart of transition processes are a core group of non-institutional actors. Moreover, today, we have seen a gradual tendency with regard to the transitional justice seeker, more and more of the state itself, where the demands have traditionally come in a systematic form of victimization, and this shift in transitional justice is above all a shift in actors.

Third: Three conditions or assumptions in transitional justice paths

In general, three categories of situations can be identified that lead to the development of transitional processes aimed



at justice, truth and reconciliation.

1. In a situation of crisis or conflict, the announcement of the mobilization of justice, truth and reconciliation processes must urgently contribute to restoring calm, easing tensions and reducing the crisis or post-conflict situation.

2. In the event of a crisis or post-conflict situation, the situation is at least theoretically less affected than before. Transitional justice processes become instruments of national dialogue and reconciliation to provide the solid foundations of the new state rather than token measures to ease tensions.

Finally, the last hypothesis, as well as the singularity, is the hypothesis of memorizing processes. Truth commissions or research committees do not intervene during the period of tension, but after some time for calm, but not for forgetfulness, and at least the relative bypassing of the tragic situation that has marked the country's history. Thus, the work of the committee concerned will focus on fact-finding, with sufficient distance, in order to shed light on a part of history, and the definition of history, although common is not shared, and sometimes contributed to the division of society in depth.

Fourth: Challenges

Among the many challenges to reconciliation and transitional justice, there

is the challenge of the effectiveness of its mechanisms, that is, the challenge of its success. But to be effective, the path must be honest. The credibility of the mechanisms of justice, truth and reconciliation should be the first urgent requirement in all reconciliation paths that are successful in achieving their goals, particularly in strengthening the cohesion of the social fabric. In this context, care should be taken to raise several challenges and avoid a certain number of practices, which can be identified as follows:

1. First, avoid politicizing the tracks. In Mali, for example, the Ministry of Justice appears to be at least partially overseeing the transitional justice process. In Tunisia and Egypt, a special ministry for human rights and transitional justice has been established. This oversight can be necessary if it is possible to ensure harmony and good implementation of the processes of reconciliation. Otherwise, it would be harmful if it contained the track and placed it under guardianship.

2. Second, avoid separation from the reality on the ground. The experiences that have been successful are those that have remained true to the political, institutional, social and cultural realities of the countries that have adopted them, such as Ghana, Morocco, Togo, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Chile. However, precautions must be taken



to guard against the effects of such success, as truth commissions impose themselves as necessary elements to emerge from the crisis and as indispensable measures for the engineering of peace, without always measuring their effectiveness or their real impact.

Thirdly, avoid the absence of civil society support for the track. The more civil society is the path, the more credible it will be, especially if the relevant NGOs adopt it.

Fourthly, the failure to implement follows the recommendations of the truth commissions regarding the main areas covered by their mandate. Making recommendations and implementing them is a key but crucial element in the work of each committee. But they should be classified into specific categories so that the proposed reforms are realistic and practical in time and place.

Transitional justice is not the miraculous solution to conflict resolution and reconciliation. Its institutionalization remains in need of perception and innovation. But there are tools - and this is one of the gains - that are shaped by international human rights law and international humanitarian law as well as constitutional law, one of the first keys to its legitimacy. There is still a need to go further as to give it greater effectiveness, so that transitional justice will not become a mere form of transactional justice.

Presentation on the Role of National Human Rights in Reconciliation and Guarantee of Non-recurrence By Mohamed Suma, International Center for Transitional Justice, Sierra Leone

This presentation will focus mainly of the role national human rights institutions in reconciliation and ensuring non-recurrence of violent conflicts and repressive human rights regimes. Specifically, I will highlight the role of the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and its role in the Transitional Justice processes in the post-conflict era.

1. Introduction

In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted the Paris Principles in its Resolution 48/134. These principles govern the status and functioning of independent national human rights institutions (NHRIs). By virtue of Principle 3(b), NHRIs shall ensure the effective implementation of international human rights standards and work to ensure that national legislation, regulations and practices conform to the fundamental principles of human rights 3(a) i. NHRIs shall protect and promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Human rights monitoring is one of the core functions of the NHRIs, the others being promotion, protection, and also providing support to victims of human rights violations. Suffice it to say that



NHRIs are part of the state institutions, however, international human rights instruments are directed mainly at the state. Therefore, the NHRIs are mandated to monitor and advise the state to comply with the ratification and implementation of those instruments.

The Paris Principles-compliant NHRIs typically have a legal mandate, which can be formulated into six main functions or services as follows:

- i. Advise parliament, government and other bodies on human rights issues;
- ii. Monitor the human rights situation and provide evaluation of policies and their impact on human rights;
- iii. Support victims of human rights violations, specifically in relation to cases regarding discrimination based on race and ethnicity;
- iv. Research on human rights;
- v. Education on human rights;
- vi. Communication on human rights in order to raise awareness, provide information and address public opinion.

2. NHRIs Role to Deal with Conflict Related Human Rights Abuses

NHRIs play the role in preventing, protecting and assuring non-repetition of violations. However, the role is not specifically defined in any international instrument except some relevant references available in some international conventions like ICERD, ICCPR, OP-

CAT, and CRPD.

In any case, as a part of the national human rights protection system NHRIs have been dealing with those cases at the country level and within the scope of the general mandate of protection and promotion of human rights. In a post conflict context, some countries' peace agreements entail specific role for NHRIs. The main aim of involving the NHRIs is to contribute to the ending of impunity of the human rights abuses committed during the conflict period. It often plays the critical role of serving as the constructive non-violent conflict management system that creates a platform for individual and groups to express their discontent and raise issues related to violation of their rights in order to bring about the desired changes. The NHRI can perform these critical roles in both conflict situations.

2.1. NHRIs Role During Conflict

It is prudent for NHRI to recalibrate its focus and priorities during conflict to ensure that it did not fulfill its core function of protection, but will also contribute to peace building and resolving conflict. The adopted functions could include promoting dialogue between belligerents; promoting the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms for peace building; and encouraging to deal with the underlying causes of conflict; and preventing escalation of the conflict or their impacts. These measures include:



- Prevention as to the causes and consequences of conflict:

Prevent any potential conflict by facilitating to address all the factors either that cause or trigger the conflict. Promoting human rights that regime could prevent potential conflict. This can be achieved through monitoring and documentation, fact finding mission, investigations, and publication of the findings.

- Protection from the mass abuses:

NHRI may complement the judicial implementation of human rights. Sou-motto action (on their own initiative), launch a platform to receive complaints, investigate and adjudicate human rights violations and bring action to protect human rights.

- Support to and facilitation of the peace process:

NHRI could promote the efforts of having dialogue between the conflicting parties; promote mechanisms for peace building efforts at the community level. It could play the role as impartial interface between the fighting factions and facilitate dialogue and conflict resolution.

2.2.NHRIs in the Post-Conflict Period

In accordance with the Paris Principles, many countries have established National Human Rights Institutions. Some of these institutions are established before conflict, while a host of them were established as part of the

post conflict accountability and reconciliation mechanism. Be that as it may, it does not diminish the role that they can play as the mechanism for preventing future occurrence of human rights violations or restoring respect of human rights and social harmony in the post-conflict context.

This role include the following:

- Monitoring the peace agreement and carry out promotional activities: In order to carry out regular monitoring, NHRIs role may be specified in the peace agreement. It is particularly important in the situation where there is mistrust between the conflicting parties.

- Post conflict rehabilitation: NHRIs may support the post conflict reconciliation process including rehabilitation of displaced people, reintegration of ex-combatants, promoting an environment for cohesiveness and togetherness etc.

- Archiving and providing documentary evidences: This particular role is built on the NHRIs functions during conflict period, which include: monitoring and reporting; investigation; complaints handling; information gathering; documentation and archiving. It is also related to cooperation with national, regional, hybrid or international judicial mechanisms that they would require the documentary evidences to proceed with criminal prosecution of suspects of serious human rights violations.



3.NHRIs Role Related to Transitional Justice Processes

Many peace agreements or the enabling legislation often expressly provide specific roles for NHRIs regarding the country's transitional justice processes. These measures are amply discussed in the OHCHR manual and they include roles in truth seeking, prosecution of perpetrators, reparation to victims, vetting and institutional reform. The role of NHRIs to ensure accountability, effective social reintegration, and reparation to conflict victims during the transition period are directly relevant to ending impunity. The National Human Rights Council, for example was asked by the truth and dignity commission to play key role in the implementation of the recommendation of its recommendations including on memory and collective reparations. Generally, the role NHRIs on TJ include:

- Supporting to establish accountability:
- This measure included establishing an accountability mechanism, developing a knowledge management system to document past abuses, or to support other truth-seeking/ truth-telling mechanism.
- It also include developing a plan or programs to review and comment on enabling legislation for a truth and reconciliation commission special court or reparation program, creating, capacity to advise on Institutional reforms.

•It could also contribute to the TJ processes through information gathering, documenting, and archiving , of the human rights abuses, conducting investigations and monitoring, cooperating with the specialized mechanisms and providing assistance to victims.

•Performing the tasks assigned in Peace Agreements:

NHRIs may have been assigned special role in the peace processes. It is important for the NHRI to fulfill its roles such as in promoting and protecting human rights during the transition.

•Promoting and protecting victims' rights and execution of the TRC reports:

It can play critical role to:

- Outreach and public information on the various TJ mechanisms.
- Advocating for the process to be victims centered and ensuring the participation of vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth.
- Provide support for the establishment and implementations of TJ mechanism and following up on the recommendation of various TJ initiatives.

With regards the last question of monitoring the implementation of the TRC's recommendation, I will now briefly discuss the Sierra Leone National Human Rights Commission as a case study.

4.The Sierra Leone National Human Rights Commission

•Established in the post conflict con-



text by virtue of the TRC recommendations.

- Conduct monitoring role and produce annual report on the progress of the implementation of the TRC recommendations.
- Stocktaking of the implementation of the TRC recommendations with government institutions.
- Hosting national conferences to promote the implementation of the TRC recommendations, review the state of affairs and identify areas of improvement.
- Integrate human rights components in post-conflict reform mechanisms and issues such as the justice and security sector.

Presentation on Transitional Justice in South Africa: Reflections on the South African experience by Mrs. Friederike Bubenzer, Senior Project leader, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation

Good morning and thank you for inviting me to address this distinguished audience on the South African reconciliation experience of the last 25 years. Thank you also for your incredibly warm and generous hospitality during my stay in your magnificent country.

I address you today as a practitioner in the field of dialogue and reconciliation and as a South Africa citizen, deeply committed to bringing togetherness to our still deeply divided nation. In the

spirit of acknowledgement, which is a critical but largely absent component of South Africa's transitional justice journey today-especially where white South Africans are concerned, I should acknowledge that I am a white South African who benefitted from Apartheid. I am also the daughter of a father who was a German second world war veteran and a mother whose family were political refugees from East Germany. Transitions are in my blood.

Last year was the 20th anniversary of the submission of the report produced by the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission to then president Nelson Mandela.

This year SA also celebrates 25 years of democratic elections. These are major milestones. Milestones which require celebration and reflection and, once we have celebrated and reminded ourselves of exactly how far we have come since the dawn of democracy ; thereby beginning the long journey of undoing hundreds of years of oppression and systematic subjugation of the majority black population by the minority white population, then we must critically reflect on how far we have really come and, more importantly, what needs to be done to ensure we continue to emerge out of the darkness of the past.

I come from a country which is in the process of performing a master piece. We are learning to live together (this is the title of a book written by IJRS



founding director Prof Charles Villa Vicencio). We are learning to respect one another. We are trying to move out of the incredibly dark and long shadow which our past continues to cast over our society. Many thought this would be a quick journey; that the truth commission with its amnesty and reparations components would help us overcome. That a democratically elected government would swiftly transform our society into a prosperous one. In the magnificent afterglow of the transition and the hope embodied by President Mandela's presidency; we must forgive those who let hope overshadow that which would be realistic and feasible.

There is no doubt of the very significant role performed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa and indeed on the continent as a whole. To date it remains the most successful model of how to truth commission in Africa. It was by no means perfect but given the pervasive nature in which colonialism and apartheid penetrated all aspects of South African society over generations and given the nascence of the field of transitional justice; perfection is not a relevant standard. This is a young journey after all.

But I am not here to tell you about the nature and successes of the commission. That it was set up by an act of parliament through the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act of 1995; that Chairperson Arch-

bishop Desmond Tutu and his vice Chair, the late Alex Voraine were appointed by President Nelson Mandela and that they were supported amongst others by a publically approved team of eminent commissioners, investigators, researchers and translators. That over 20000 testimonies were heard as the Commission travelled around the country, closely followed by the media, to hear the truth of how apartheid has systematically gone about destroying the fiber of our nation. That over 7000 amnesty applications were received and only 800 were granted. That once-of reparations were paid to those who testified.

We know this. It has been extensively discussed, written about and analyzed; and though we continue to warn one another that there is no one-size fits all approach to dealing with the past; I fear that we still do-too often-copy and paste key elements of SAs journey into and onto other contexts without critically interrogating where the country is currently at.

Rather, I think it is important that as African practitioners of transitional justice, we look at South Africa today-with its growing inequality; increasing civil unrest and protest action; high levels of corruption, poor service delivery, and spectacular levels of violence and try and understand what could have been done differently in the aftermath of the TRC to build a better SA.

Allow me to explore here one area



which has barely been mentioned in our deliberations over the last days but which I feel very strongly about an which I am leading an international research project on at IJR. This concerns the relationship between the field of mental health and psychosocial support on the one side and peace building and transitional justice on the other. Incidentally, while my interest in these fields originates from my dialogue and reconciliation work in South Sudan where IJR has been working for the last 10 years; I feel that understanding, acknowledging and addressing the impact of the past on the psychosocial wellbeing of South Africans, has been a major failure in the post-TRC and post- democracy dispensation.

Let me explain:

In SA, millions of predominantly poor black people exist between two layers of pain:

One-as a result of the collective experience of existing for more than 400 years as second class citizens during systems of slavery, colonialism and apartheid.

While research on the intergenerational transmission of trauma in South Africa (and indeed in Africa) is still very slim; IJR's work in this field shows that South Africans live with an often continue to identify as shaped by a brutal and unjust past in which they were inferior and marginal.

Second – this historical trauma is com-

pounded by very poor socio-economic conditions still prevalent across the country. The result is daily stressors-stressors that result from living in relative poverty in communities that are characterized by high levels of unemployment (currently at 27% nationally), poor service delivery, some of the highest levels of sexual and domestic violence in the world and the ever growing phenomenon of gangsterism.

Together these levels of pain make for a toxic mix.

Now we might ask but what about the TRC? The TRC receive “only” (in inverted commas) about 21,000 testimonies. This means that the majority of South African; most of whom had in some way or another experienced the wrath of the apartheid regime, never had the opportunity to share their story; to feel heard and acknowledged , to engage in the kind of dialogue necessary to begin a reconciliation journey. It is unrealistic to expect a TRC to deal with the psycho-social wellbeing of an entire nation; especially when the wounds are as deep as they are in SA. Had the recommendations of the TRC report been implemented some of these measures might have been implemented. But in the absence of addressing this; I hear more and more people in and around Cape Town expressing hopelessness and feeling forgotten and a deep sense that their sacrifices during the struggle against apartheid were in



vain. Furthermore, researchers¹ have found that the relationship between truth-telling, psychological healing and PB is dubious. For some people, participating in truth-telling processes has positive effects; for others, the effects are negative in that they have the potential of opening psychological wounds that can result in increased depression, anxiety or PTSD. Truth-telling, they argue, has no significant impact on the sense of justice, feelings of revenge, violence and retribution and improvement in the psychological effects of trauma. They argue that 'policy-makers need to restructure reconciliation processes in ways that reduce their negative psychological costs while retaining their positive societal benefits'.

We know that conflict weakens the social fabric that governs relationship and the capacity for recovery. But we must understand that in the aftermath, the causes of interpersonal conflict might still exist, and may even have worsened as a result of violence during the conflict. The ability of individuals and societies to cope with such extraordinarily painful experiences, and with the developed mistrust and fear, is often impressive but also limited, and the breakdown of coping strategies is frequently related to psycho-social trauma. Due to the conflict, the natural ties, rules and bonds between people and within communities that strengthen coping and resilience are

1Mendeloff (2009) and Cilliers et al. (2016)

often destroyed.

Restoring the social fabric that binds and support people within their own communities is vital for those who have experienced serious traumatic events; recreating the feeling of connectedness to other people is essential for building reconciliation.

Given that conflict tends to adversely affect people's mental health, and that high levels of poor mental health affect the ability of individuals, communities and societies to function peacefully and effectively during and after conflict, I would like to argue for us to be far more overt and creative in integrating mental health and psycho-social support structures into all levels of the post-conflict justice and reconciliation journey.

Recent research by Canaletti from Israel and Palestine² for instance shown that mental health is a key contributor to many of the underlying attitudes that perpetuate the continued cycle of hatred and aggression between Israelis and Palestinians. They argue that the dearth of available psychological support services in Gaza is not only a humanitarian problem, but also a barrier to progress towards reconciliation. As in South Africa, the escalation of violence in many communities emphasizes the crucial need for comprehensive interventions that bolster coping, mitigate loss of social and economic

2 Canaletti (the Lancet) : Israel and Palestine



resources, reduce threat perceptions, and ameliorate mental disorders.

As such I'd like to argue that SA should have put in place institutions mandated to operate long after the TRC closed its doors to proactively and collectively engage the citizenry in dialogue about their experiences and memories of the past. Such institutions would benefit not only those sharing and listening but, if documented, such a process could also contribute to a more comprehensive and inclusive documentation of the past that could be taught to future generations; so many of who have very little understanding of SAs path to democracy.

Ensuring a continued constructive engagement with the past-ideally through the creation of dialogue platforms on race and racial identity at a micro, meso and macro level, might prevent some analysts from saying things like 'reconciliation in SA has not failed; it has simply not been attempted' or 'it is not because of too much reconciliation that justice was not realized, but because of too little'.

In SA, the absence of long-term mechanisms and structures that ensure the continued roll-out of projects and activities that keep the conversation about the past on the table- as a reminder of the past and what was achieved but also as a load star for the future; to remind us where we don't want to go again- could have done a lot prevent us from

getting to the very volatile situation we are in.

One advantage is that we know quite a bit about the nature of the challenges we face. Since 2001, my organization has hosted the South African Reconciliation Barometer, a public opinion survey which tracks reconciliation in SA and annually provides statistics to government, civil society and the population at large on how South Africans themselves feel about reconciliation, one another, government and the future. The survey tells us that when asked how much they trust people from other race groups, 41% said somewhat, and 21% said not very much or not at all. Asked how often in the last month people interacted or talked to someone from a different race group at social gathering and events, 46% said rarely or never. Finally, asked whether they trust in national government; 28% said somewhat and more than 40% said not very much or not at all.

As practitioners in this field we understand the importance of building trust and enabling meaningful inter-personal connection as part of the reconciliation journey. My country has a long way to go.

I do not have time to go in detail into the other two areas which I believe we should have addressed far more aggressively in the post 1994 dispensation- education and socio- economic development.



In SA we campaign for free education. In my view we should be demanding more-not just free education that currently fails to get many youth onto the employment ladder(we presently have 38% youth unemployment) but GOOD free education.

SA still has one of the highest education expenditures in the world; sadly the results and the numbers of youth who are absorbed into the labor market does not correlate with the expenditure. If, after 1994, we had rolled out the quality of education white students were enjoying in the apartheid era to the rest of the country; we would now be welcoming a far larger quotient of skilled youth into our labour market; thereby contributing to undoing the very high levels of frustration amongst youth unable to gain access to tertiary institutions and the job market and whose discontent is a ticking time bomb.

In conclusion:

I am not a pessimist. In my daily life I also see changes which give me hope that our society is changing. The current process and debate about land redistribution –an area where too little progress has been made since 1994-is encouraging. And I am the first to sing the praises of the reconciliation initiatives that have taken place in SA far.

I do however feel strongly that for the benefit of other countries embarking on transitional justice processes we need

to look very critically at the South African journey and learn as much from its failings as from its successes.

Presentation on Arab Experiences of national reconciliation by Mr. Habib Nassar, transitional justice lawyer , Director of Policy and Research at Impunity Watch

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me thank the organizers for the invitation and give me the opportunity to be among you and a number of old friends in Morocco who respect and long for ; and the assertion that the offer represents only opinion and does not reflect or represent the opinion of the regulators.

The popular uprisings that started in Tunisia December, 2010 and spread around the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) were in many ways fuelled by demands for justice and accountability for human rights abuses. Transitional justice (TJ) has thus emerged as a priority for those societies undergoing political transition, with the international community joining in very early on. But the Arab spring was not the first instance of efforts to deal with past human rights atrocities in the region and lay the groundwork for reconciliation. Indeed, while the repressive regimes that were in place in most MENA countries left very little space for justice and accountability, this did not prevent victims' groups and civil society organizations from campaign-



ing for transitional justice and lobbying the authorities for measures to address victims' rights. Taking advantage of the window of opportunity offered by political liberalization in a context such as Morocco in the late 1990s and early 2000s, they even succeeded in obtaining again such as the establishment of a truth commission and a reparations program. In post Saddam Hussein Iraq, the fall of his regime and the rise to power of political parties representing groups brutally victimized by the former regime opened the door to the adoption of a series of measures aimed at addressing past atrocities. By contrast, in the Algerian and Lebanese post – conflict contexts, victim's groups, despite their relentless mobilization, have not succeeded to achieve much progress through their advocacy efforts for truth and justice and under the pretext of achieving reconciliation, and their voices unheard.

In the post-Arab spring contexts of countries such as Egypt, Tunisia , Libya, Yemen and Syria,(and Iraq with renewed justice efforts this time to deal with the crimes committed by Daesh), governments, parliaments, civil society and / or victim's group have engaged in efforts to address serious human rights violations and initiate TJ processes. Also, in most of these contexts the international community (including UN agencies, INGOs, governments, and other international actors) have heavily intervened to promote or support nascent TJ initiatives. However, as a

result of conflict and /or the return of authoritarian forms of government in the majority of these contexts, very little was achieved in most contexts with the remarkable exception of Tunisia whose Truth and Dignity Commission have just wrapped up its mandate and submitted its final report to the Tunisian president.

Given the little time that I have for my presentation, but more importantly in the presence of eminent colleagues who were directly involved in leading transitional justice and reconciliation processes in their counties and will present on these experiences later on (I'm looking forward to that) , I will limit myself to a comparative overview but won't go into details on each national process. Also, I won't cover processes that haven't really taken off the ground as a result of spiraling violence, this, despite genuine and repeated efforts to launch a process (Yemen, Libya). I'll use in my overview some elements of comparison that include the place of victims and survivors in the process which I will oppose to the focus put in the process on the fate of perpetrators 2 the increasing role international actors play in national TJ and reconciliation processes at the expense of local actors and local ownership.

But let me very quickly go back to the genesis and historic evolution of the field of TJ to clarify why these criteria are relent and how TJ in the Arab region fits within this evolution and have impacted the development of the



field. Roughly speaking it all started in the Latin American context in the early 1980s with improvised efforts to uphold victims' rights and provide justice despite the existence of amnesties or other obstacles to judicial accountability. At that time there were no international policies, guidelines or standards in the field of TJ. There was barely a vague normative framework. Also, at that time there were no international actors or experts involved in the promotion or design of the TJ policies and measures. Louis Joint drew very much from the Latin America experience when drafting his principles(officially known as the UN principle to Combat impunity) that constitute today the basis of TJ which are the right to truth , the right to justice , the right to reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence.

Then came what would correspond roughly to a post –ICC or post-Rome Statue(adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2002) moment which was marked by the inflation of policies, standards, guidelines , ready-to – use TJ packages' as well as an uncontrollable booming of what have become to be known as the TJ industry with the proliferation of a range of international actors providing funding and support to national TJ processes which include INGOs , think-tanks, donors, intergovernmental organizations and even for profit entities such as law firms and consulting groups. This plethora of policies has given rise to some dogmas.

And finally, we have the Arab Spring

moment that has challenged many of the international standards that have been developed since the early 2000 and may require that we reconsider some of our TJ dogmas in light of developments in most Arab spring countries such as Yemen , Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Syria. Indeed , it appeared pretty soon that standards and guidelines developed in the past 15 years are most of the time not adapted to deal with the complexities of the Arab transitions and the multi- layered legacies they have to deal with. In fact, the Arab spring offered an experimental ground for the politics that very soon proved to be inadequate to deal with the region's complexities:

-Ambiguous transitions: each of the “transitions” has given rise to a specific balance of power and particular political constraints that no serious transitional justice plan could ignore. Indeed, the conditions resulting from the ambiguous transitions in each country shaped the justice. Thus , choices made and policies implemented in Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Egypt have been limited by such factors as deep political divisions the survival and growing influence of elements of the former regime, and the omnipotence of armed militias that do not hesitate to challenge the authority of central governments.

-The legacy of Crony and Corruption: over the years, the extraordinary economic influence and wealth garnered by rulers and their families helped them to assert control over the coun-



try's economy and wealth and thus to consolidate their political power. In countries like Egypt, Tunisia and Syria, corruption networks and systems of repression overlapped with each other and were tightly intertwined.

-Legacies of division and exclusion: many of the countries in the region have been marred for years by sectarian strife and deep political divisions as well violation of cultural and exclusion of wide segments of society from political and economic participation.

-A multilayered and decades-long legacy of widespread human rights violation : while a country like Tunisia is confronted with legacies of serious human rights abuses committed by state agents that include widespread torture, arbitrary detention and the killing of peaceful demonstrators, other countries that have witnessed armed conflict such as Libya, Yemen and Syria have to address large-scale abuses and crimes that in most cases constitute crimes against humanity. Moreover, patterns of violations committed in these conflict contexts are not only characterized by their magnitude and gravity but are also distinguished by the type of perpetrators implicated in the crimes since both state and non-state actors are involved as well as foreign troops. Also, we are talking of legacies of abuse that go back decades. The violations of the Gaddafi regime for example started with the *ecoup d'état* that brought him to power in 1969. In Tunisia, determining what period should be investigated

by the truth commission envisaged by the transitional justice bill was one of the most contentious issues addressed during the National debate on Transitional Justice (1995). Assad since the 1970s.

Social cleavages, growing inequality and violations of economic and social rights: In equal distribution of wealth, growing levels of unemployment among university graduates³ and increased restriction on workers' rights, all of which have fueled anger and frustration among the low income populations.

So, we have here different elements that the ready to use recipes and standardizes solutions promoted internationally cannot capture. The templates often pushed forward by the international community fail to capture these intricacies and to provide adapted solutions.

But let me go back to my two criteria and look at TJ in Morocco, Iraq, and Tunisia. As I said I won't describe the various experiences but will draw some lessons as others will talk about them.

Let's look at Morocco and Tunisia first. Morocco which can be considered as the foundational and an authoritative model for TJ in the region was distinctive for several reasons:

3 A phenomenon generated by the freeze in government hiring. It led in Morocco and Tunisia to the emergence of the *Diplomes Chomeurs* movement that was very present in the "Arab Spring" protests



1-The process was entirely homemade and shaped by Moroccans themselves .It reminds us of the early TJ experience in LA. It was the result of a negotiated political process that combined advocacy the civil society and victims (here the national symposium on serious human violations convened by the Forum for Truth and Justice, OMDH and AMDH was key) and the political will of the king to address past violation and lay the groundwork for the reform of institutions. In that way, the TJ process has become an element of a renewed social contract. This is probably what is lacking in the Tunisian experience in which the involvement of too many international actors especially at the design phase of the process left little space to build political consensus around the process. The Tunisia TJ law is remarkable as it made sure to include all the different elements of TJ , but the process did lack the necessary political will and support it needed to deliver on all its promises(Khaled Krichi).

2- And the Moroccan process was innovative, and here the fact that the Moroccans were left alone to design their own TJ measures was key. They did seek support and received support from some international actors but they knew how to channel such support and get the best out of it. But times were different back then. The over-standardized approaches promoted by internationals today kill the creativity of local actors. I can name at least two areas where the Moroccan experience was

particularly innovative and this is its gender approach and the community reparation programs which I'm sure other will talk about later. I should say here that the Tunisian experience also brought a number of innovations that are worth noting. These include the investigation of links between repression and corruption. And integrating corruption in the TJ and during which addressing corruption came up a priority for the consulted communities and groups.

3-And the Moroccan process was transformational, while the process of implementation of the IER release of its final report, it is not a coincidence that many of these recommendations were incorporated in Morocco's new constitution approved via referendum in July 2011 in the wake of the Arab uprisings. In a way, the IER had paved the way for the constitutional reform and was better prepared to face demands for change. New constitution, many significant amendments especially in the area of human rights protection were particularly welcome.

4-Finally, Morocco had a victim-centered process that favored dealing with victims' rights to truth and reparation and not the question of accountability of perpetrators. Here it differs drastically from the Tunisian experience which combines both. But what to say about the current efforts to pass amnesty law? Was too early to talk about judicial accountability?



Let's turn now to Iraq. Following the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq and the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime (same period as Morocco), several measures were put in place by the occupying forces and the interim Iraqi authorities to address the human rights atrocities of the former regime.

Furthermore, de-Baathification has seriously impaired the functioning of many government institutions and the security services by often depriving them of experienced personnel under the simple pretext that they were former Baath party members, this despite the fact that under Saddam Hussein, it was a quasi-requirement to be a party member to obtain a government job.

In considering transitional justice in post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, it seems clear that the move by the Iraqi interim authorities (often under pressured by the US-led CPA officials) to put in place measures aimed at dealing with past human rights atrocities and the legacy of Hussein's regime without undertaking significant public consultations and without the meaningful participation of Iraq's civil society and political forces was fatal to the process. Indeed, no measure could stand the legitimacy test in Iraq's deeply divided society without an inclusive process that ensured that all segments of Iraq's political, sectarian and ethnic mosaic participate in the design of transitional justice plans. In the final analysis, the perception of political revenge fueled by the lack of consultation and the ap-

pearance that justice measures were being unilaterally imposed and instrumentalized by one side only contributed to delegitimizing the process, fueling division between Iraq's sectarian groups and undermining political efforts to stabilize the country.

The same mistakes are again being committed today in measure being adopted to deal with ISIS.

Presentation on Reconciliation in the Tunisian transitional justice process by Ms. Sihem Bensedrine, President of Truth and Dignity Commission

(Initial paper)

On 24 December 2013, the National Constituent Assembly ratified Law 53 on the establishment and regulation of transitional justice- the same day on which all political parties agreed, under the patronage of the National Quartet sponsoring the National Dialogue (Tunisian General Labor Union, the Tunisian Bar Association, Tunisian Union of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts, and the Tunisian Human Rights League), on the personality of Mahdi Juma'a as prime minister after agreeing on a roadmap to get out of the severe political crisis experienced by Tunisia following the assassination of the Nasserite-oriented martyr Mohamed Brahimi in the summer of 2013. Subsequently, Tunisia was about to enter into a fierce internal war. So we can say that the transitional justice, which was related to the outcomes of the na-



tional dialogue and its controversial relationship with the democratic transition, saved Tunisia from civil war and was a substitute for retaliatory justice and selective justice.

The aforementioned transitional justice law created the mechanisms of national reconciliation in Tunisia, which can be divided into two categories:

Individual arbitration

Through the Arbitration and Reconciliation Commission, Transitional Justice Law- Chapter 45 and beyond, states that “the Arbitration and Reconciliation Commission shall be created and assigned with deciding on the files of violations according to this law.” Following its establishment, the commission started to decide on all individual arbitration and reconciliation requests submitted by either perpetrators of grave and / or systemic violations, including files of financial corruption and assault on public funds or victims of such violations.

In this context, secret hearings were held for all involved parties, including the official in charge of resolving public disputes representing the state in its dual capacity- victims or perpetrators of violations. The arbitration and reconciliation mechanism derives its particularity from the specialty of the transitional justice law while respecting the general principles stipulated in the arbitration and reconciliation magazine and the rest of the legislations on arbitration and reconciliation.

Reconciliation is the desired and supreme goal in the path of transitional justice involving a number of integrated mechanisms, including uncovering the truth on serious or systemic violations to achieving comprehensive national reconciliation through accountability for perpetrators of these violations; reparation for victims; preserving their individual and collective memory and applying the arbitration mechanism if the two parties agreed; reforming institutions by overhauling administration and review of the legislative system in order to achieve comprehensive national reconciliation. Hence, such mechanisms are interdependent and cannot be bypassed or skipped.

The institution of arbitration is as old as mankind itself. It was recognized by various divine and man-made laws and statutes. The first ever appearance of arbitration is traced back to the agreement of Cain and Abel to resort to Heaven to resolve their dispute over marriage with the twin sister. The Arabs also used to resort to arbitration to resolve disputes over honor issues, “But no, by your Lord, they can have no faith, until they make you judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept with full submission. (4:65)”. Thus, arbitration is a resolution of dispute between the parties controlling non-judicial body or arbitration committee whose members are appointed based on an agreement to settle a dispute between them on terms



stipulated in the agreement, with the arbitral tribunal issuing a verdict binding on all parties.

The Arbitration and Reconciliation Commission is an individual privilege for perpetrators to reconcile with their victims. Their files are not referred to competent judicial circuits and are based on the equation of amnesty for perpetrators in return for revealing the truth, apology and reparation.

After completing its work, the Arbitration and Reconciliation Commission of the Truth and Dignity Commission issued 19 individual arbitral awards between the perpetrators of gross violations of human rights and financial corruption and the victims, including the State being a victim of violations of financial corruption and assaults on public funds.

- Eight individual arbitral awards between the perpetrators of violation of financial corruption under the regime of former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the Tunisian state as a victim of these violations. We have recovered the amount of 745 million Tunisian dinars for the treasury of the Tunisian state.

- Eleven individual arbitral decisions between victims of human rights violations and some public institutions and ministries and two members of the family of former President Ben Ali as the perpetrators of the violations. Through such decisions, we settled

the situation of these victims via reconciliation. These are related to a set of violations, including prevention of mercenaries and work for political and unionist reasons and assault on property rights and violation of the right to expression, publication and media.

Some observations must be made as follows:

- The number of applicants for arbitration and reconciliation reaches more than 25, 000. These are all victims of human rights violations and financial corruption; we have managed to issue 11 individual arbitral decisions only because of the state refusal to conclude reconciliation with them.

- The State as a victim has only approved eight out of dozens of applications for reconciliation submitted by perpetrators of financial corruption violations, and has not yet completed reconciliation procedures in 685 cases of financial corruption that it filed in June 2016 as a victim of financial corruption violations and assault on public funds committed by former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and some of his ministers and supporters. The Tunisian state thus missed the opportunity to either achieve individual reconciliation with the perpetrators or gain financial, social and political benefits.

- These individual reconciliations pave the way for a comprehensive national reconciliation.



Collective Reconciliation

Collective reconciliation, which is stated in the Transitional Justice Law (Chapter 67), is a comprehensive political national reconciliation between the state as the perpetrator of gross and / or systematic violations and the political currents as victims of these violations or within the same political currents that committed violations against each other. The Truth and Dignity Commission has worked on these “reconciliations” through its powers and mechanisms and is obliged to include in its final report all measures to be taken to promote national reconciliation as well as recommendations, proposals and actions that enhance democratic building and contribute to establishing the rule of law.

These include a proposal for holding a wide-ranging national conference on national reconciliation either between the State and all political parties deemed victims of violations or within such parties during which confessions and collective apologies are made. This is a matter of delay in Tunisia, which has made important strides in achieving national reconciliation through the promulgation of a consensus constitution in January 2014, and holding free and fair democratic elections involving all parties, including the symbols of the pre- 14 January 2011 regime. The polls led to the emergence of a national coalition government and national opposition thanks to the civility and tolerance

of the Tunisian people as manifested in resolving their ideological differences through dialogue and debate, and resorting to the constitutional institutions of the state, most important of which is the truth and dignity panel emanating from the course of transitional justice. The Tunisian people did not follow the path of retaliatory and selective justice.

Factors contributing to the success of transitional justice and national reconciliation in Tunisia

- The unity of Tunisian society, religiously, ethnically, culturally and culturally.
- Lack of any role for the military in political life.
- No major violations of human rights and mass massacres (three cases of political assassination only).
- The strength of Tunisian civil society (the quartet sponsor of the national dialogue).
- The existence of a strong and independent civil administration resulted in the normal functioning of public facilities in the darkest conditions experienced during the revolution.

It is therefore possible to say that national reconciliation was achieved before the truth and dignity commission began its work by issuing the general amnesty in February 2011 as well as the undertaking in 2012 of the process of overhauling and clearing the administration through state institution re-



form mechanism involving dozens of judges and high-ranking security officials in the Ministry of the Interior. And the presidential and legislative elections that took place in late 2014 saw the implementation of the outcomes of national dialogue, the return of symbols of the regimes of Ben Ali and Bourguiba to power by obtaining the majority of the People's Assembly seats and the three presidencies (the presidencies of the state, government and parliament). This situation still exists up till now.

- National reconciliation is achieved through the implementation of mechanisms of transitional justice (uncovering the truth of violations, reparation of victims, reforming institutions, job inspection and preserving national memory).

Recommendations

- Abolish the law issued in October 2007 concerning administrative reconciliation.

- Convene a national conference on national reconciliation in which the State will extend its apologies to victims of human rights violations and financial corruption.

- Implement the recommendations contained in the comprehensive final report of the Truth and Dignity Commission on revealing the truth and the reparation of victims based on material and moral compensation, social reintegration, state apology for the victims,

institutional reform and the preservation of national memory.

Experience is the main test for the validity of a theory or the text of a law. Through our experience in Tunisia in national reconciliation and for any national reconciliation experience in any country to succeed in the future, the following is advisable:

- Taking into account the specificity of the democratic transition process in each country, as there are no ready templates for national reconciliation and transitional justice applied in all places and times.

- Linking the path of transitional justice to the trajectory of democratic transition, in the sense that they go hand in hand, and then meet in the end, but should not precede each other.

- The need to involve all political, social, economic and civil society actors in the promulgation of the Transitional Justice Law and to give a greater role to associations representing perpetrators of violations that is comparable to the role assigned to victims' associations so that transitional justice is not a selective and lame one that only reflects the interests of the victims.

- Carrying out broad awareness campaigns for the transitional justice process and its importance and success until the spirit of transitional justice is represented by all and is not treated as a ghost institution marked by uncertainty and mistrust.



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