



**7<sup>th</sup> Retreat of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in  
Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016, in Addis  
Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Final Communiqué**

In pursuit of the functions assigned to it by the general conference, and in keeping with the annual activities approved by the Council, the General Secretariat of the Association of senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) organized its seventh Retreat in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, 2016.

**Attendance**

Participants from the following member countries attended this important meeting:

The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Shoora council of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Senate of Republic of Burundi.

The House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The Senate of the Republic of Cameroon.

The House of Counselors of Morocco.

The Senate of the Republic of Congo Brazzaville.

The Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Council of States of the Republic of Sudan.

The Senate of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The House of Federation of the Democratic Federal Republic of Ethiopia.

Also in attendance were officials from the Yemeni embassy in Addis Ababa, representing the Shoora council of Yemen, whose members could not attend due to the difficulty of traveling to Addis Ababa.

The Retreat had as its theme “The Role of Parliamentarians in Combating Climate change in Africa and the Arab World regions”. It was held at Intercontinental Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at a kind invitation from the House of federation of Ethiopia, and fully organized by the General Secretariat of the Association.

The meeting deliberated upon the following three work-papers:

- The Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security in Africa and Arab World.
- Terrorism and Climate Change in Africa and Arab World.
- The Impact of Climate Change on Economic Development in Africa and Arab World.

Following the discussion of the aforementioned papers, Participants stressed the importance of tackling climate change, and praised the work-papers presented during this event for the invaluable information that augmented delegates' knowledge of the serious effects of global warming on the Planet, mankind and next generations.

### **Recommendations**

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants adopted the following recommendations:

- 1 - The participants recommend that Arab and African governments prioritize the inclusion of climate change issues in their plans and policies, and try to present their issues to international fora in order to get the best of compensations provided for in the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- 2-The participants stressed the importance of Afro-Arab coordination to counter such existential crisis and to coordinate national and international efforts at fighting climate change as enunciated in the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change in such a way as to implement its provisions.
- 3- The participants call on wealthy and industrial countries to meet their obligations set forth in the Paris agreement on climate change, which include the following:
  - a- Use of environmentally-friendly energy within the time frame set in the 2015 Paris agreement.



- b- Allocation of annual funds to the tune of \$ 100 billion from 2020 onward to help poor countries meet the requirements of using alternative green energy.
- c- Compensation of states, mainly the Arab and African ones, which are most affected by climate change effects caused by wealthy and industrial nations.

4- The participants stressed the importance of enacting national legislation on the part of Arab and African states based on the available data and debates on climate change as well as the recommendations for upgrading the technology that makes fossil fuels environmentally-friendly.

5- The participants underscore that the legislature, in cooperation with the executive authority, play a pivotal role in creating educational and guiding programs that best suit all age and intellectual segments of society in order to spread awareness on, and find solutions to environmental issues.

6- The participants affirmed the importance that Arab and African governments should seriously address climate change effects, including rising temperatures.

7- Delegates stressed the significance of women's engagement in tackling climate and environmental issues, given that women are among those most affected by climate change.

Delegates affirmed the importance of abiding by international law, and respecting countries' impunity and sovereignty over their own territories, including by avoiding interference in their economic and political affairs. In this context, participants condemn the US Congress for passing the Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA).

They also demand the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Sudan, Burundi, and Zimbabwe, among other Arab and African countries.

Last but not the least, the participants express immense gratitude to the House of Federation and the Ethiopian government for hosting this significant meeting in Addis Ababa as well as for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to them. They also express profound thankfulness to ASSECAA's General Secretariat for the distinctive organization of this retreat.

**General Secretariat,  
Addis Ababa,  
27 November 2016**

