



**Committee on the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in
Africa and Arab World**

Inaugural Meeting

Minutes

1-0 The inaugural meeting of the Committee on the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world, organized by the Association of Senates, Shoora, and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab world (ASSECAA), in collaboration with the Council of States of Sudan, was held in Khartoum, Sudan from 27-28 September, 2010.

The Committee met in the chambers of the Council of States of Sudan.

1-1 Opening Session :

The inaugural meeting of the committee was declared open by H. E Ambali Abullah Al-Ajab, Chairman of the Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and National Unity of the Council of States of Sudan, who represented H. E Lieutenant General Adam Hamid Moussa (Rtd), Speaker of the Council of States of Sudan. In his opening remarks, H. E Ambali Al-Ajab urged the Committee to be steadfast in this pursuit of a channel of collaboration between Africa and Arab women parliamentarians and the strengthening of women empowerment in the region.

1.2 Welcome address by the Secretary General of ASSECAA:

The Secretary General of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab world (ASSECAA) H. E Livinus I. Osuji in his welcome address urged the Committee to constitute a think-tank for the meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world in order to enable the

Women parliamentarians and womenfolk in the two regions generally to contribute effectively to growth and development of the regions.

2.0 Membership:

The following were admitted as members of the Committee:

- Dr. Bahia Al-Jashi from the Shoora Council of Bahrain.*
- Miss. Latifa Al-Ziwani from the House of Counsellors of the Kingdom of Morocco.*
- Mrs. Fatima Mohammed Mohammed from the Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen.*
- Mrs. Wedad Ya'acob from the Council of States of Sudan.*
- Mrs. Opape Georgette, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Gabon.*

2-1 Apology:

- Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*
- National Council of Provinces of South Africa.*

2-2 In attendance :

- H. E Livinus I. Osuji, Secretary General of ASSECAA*
- H. E Hassan Moussa Sheikh Al-Safi, Secretary General of the Council of States of Sudan.*
- Mrs. Sa'adia Malah from the Council of States of Sudan.*
- Mrs. Hajer Al-Said Awadh, member of the Council of States of Sudan.*
- Mr. Ayoub Tarif from the Shoora Council of Bahrain.*
- Miss. Ghizlan Kadar from the House of Counsellors of Morocco.*
- Mrs. Beatrice Ntoutoume from the Senate of Gabon.*
- Mr. Anwar Al-SHoaybi from the General Secretariat of ASSECAA.*
- Mr.Radwan Amir from the General Secretariat of ASSECAA.*
- Mr. Jean Paul Rwingina from the General Secretariat of ASSECAA.*
- Miss. Rehab Ishaq Darweesh from the General Secretariat of ASSECAA.*
- Miss. Rehab Ahmed Abdul Qader from the Council of States of Sudan.*

3-0 Appointment of the Chairman of the Committee:

Mrs. Wedad Ya'acob, a renowned legislator, business mogul, philanthropist and astute women leader from the Council of

States of Sudan, was nominated by Sudan and appointed, by unanimous consent, Chairperson of the Committee.

3.1 Tenure of Membership:

H. E Livinus I. Osuji, Secretary General of ASSECAA, announced that the members of the committee were appointed for a period of two years in the first instance. The appointment is renewable unless a member ceases to be a member of her own parliament.

4.0 Speeches:

The Chairman in her acceptance speech expressed immense gratitude to the Committee members for the tremendous honor done to her by her appointment as the first chairman of the Committee on the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world. She promised to exert herself to the utmost possibility in the pursuit of the objectives of the Committee.

She urged members to support her in the onerous responsibilities that lay ahead of the Committee.

The Committee members also delivered speeches in which they expressed immense gratitude to the Association of Senates, Shooras and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World (ASSECAA) for setting up the Committee on the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab World, which shall serve as a think-tank for the concerns of the meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world. They extolled the rationale behind the creation of the meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world that will work towards the strengthening of the empowerment of women in the two regions and sensitizing them to contribute to national development.

5-0 Review of the Report of the First Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab World:

The members reviewed the Report of the first meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world and proposed the following issues for presentation to the next meeting as the issues were adopted at the first meeting but have not been fully implemented by the parliaments/governments in the region:

- a. parliaments in Africa and the Arab world should enact gender friendly legislations that facilitate the participation of women in political processes, through the provision of quota based on UN resolutions of 30% of political offices for women;
 - b. governments in the regions of Africa and the Arab world should implement as a matter of urgency, all protocols and treaties on gender parity ratified by individual countries, formulate policies that enable women to have easy access to credit facilities, create equal employment opportunities and remunerations for both men and women;
 - c. all parliaments should enact legislations to eliminate all customs and laws that inhibit women from inheritance and access to land for economic purposes;
 - d. all governments in Africa and the Arab world should establish free health care services for pregnant women and children from 0 – 5 years of age, intensify the war against HIV/AIDS and other endemic diseases;
 - e. All governments in Arab and African countries should enact legislation to facilitate and encourage the education of girls to prepare them for higher responsibilities at the public and private sector of the nation.
- f- All governments in Africa and the Arab world should improve the level of transparency and accountability in governance, in order to reduce the tension and strife in politics; and thereby encourage women to participate in politics.
- G-all women parliamentarians in the region should use their outreach programmes to educate their constituents on the negative

influence of cultural, religious, and traditional practices that inhibit the development of women.

6-0 Venue of 2011 Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world :

The Committee deliberated and it was resolved that :

- a- The Secretariat of ASSECAA should communicate with member countries to find venue for the meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world for 2011.
- b- The Chairman of the Committee and delegates from Sudan should liaise with the Council of States of Sudan to confirm if Sudan would accept that the meeting takes place in Sudan.
- c- The members of the Committee should consult their councils to ascertain if any member country would be prepared to provide venue for the meeting.

6.1 The Secretary General of ASSECAA announced that the responsibility of a host country for the meeting shall be:

- a- To provide venue for the meeting
- b- To provide security at the venue and hotels for the delegates.
- c- To identify hotels to be used by delegates and book accommodation for delegates according to their preferences.
- d- To facilitate the issuance of visa to delegates coming from countries where the host country has no diplomatic mission.
- e- To provide transportation for delegates from the airport to the hotels and from the hotels to the airport at the conclusion of the meeting.
- f- To provide protocol staff to assist delegates during their stay in the host country.

6.2 The Secretary General re-emphasized that the host country is not expected to pay hotel bills or flight costs for delegates.

7.0 Date of the Meeting:

The Committee proposed that the meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world for 2011 should take place in November 2011.

8.0 Budget estimates for the Meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world:

The committee directed the preparation of a budget for the meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world scheduled for 2011. It was agreed that the budget for the meeting shall be included in ASSECAA's annual budget for 2011 and presented to the Association's Council during its meeting in December 2010.

9.0 Next Meeting of the Committee:

The committee deliberated and it was resolved that the next meeting of the committee shall take place in Libreville, Gabon in December 2010 during the conference and council meeting of the Association.

The Secretary General of ASSECAA was directed to convey this resolution to the member councils/senates of ASSECAA to facilitate the inclusion of the members of the committee in the delegations of their councils/senates to Gabon in December 2010.

10-0 Drafting of Modalities for implementing the conclusions of the meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world:

The meeting deliberated and resolved that the modalities for implementing the conclusions of the meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world shall be drafted during the Committee's next meeting proposed to be held in Gabon on the sideline of the Association's 2011 Conference and Council Meeting.

10-0 Vote of Thanks:

Dr. Bahia AL-Jashi from the Shoora Council of Bahrain delivered the vote of thanks in which she expressed sincere gratitude to the Council of States of Sudan for taking the initiative of hosting the

inaugural meeting of the Committee on the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world. She extended her deeply felt congratulations to Mrs. Wedad Ya'acob on her appointment as the Chairperson of the Committee , and stressed the importance that delegates who took part in this meeting should stay in contact with each other.

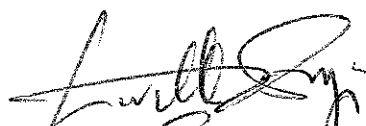
Dr. Bahia promised that she would inform her female colleagues in the Shoora Council of Bahrain of the resolutions made during this very successful event.

Delegates from Morocco and Gabon took turns to support the vote of thanks made by Dr. Bahia and pledged to do their best to ensure the success of the committee in piloting the affairs of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world.

11.0 Adjournment:

The Committee adjourned on Tuesday 28th September 2010 at 2:00 pm by unanimous consent to meet again in Libreville, Gabon from 2nd-3rd December 2010.

ASSECAA General Secretariat
September 28, 2010


S. G. 29/9/10