



Declaration of Rabat as Capital of South-South Cooperation

Final Communiqué of the “South-South” Parliamentary Dialogue Forum amongst Senates, Shoora, Equivalent Councils and Regional Parliamentary Unions in Africa, the Arab World, Latin America and the Caribbean

We, chairpersons, presidents and representatives of Senates, Shoora, equivalent councils and regional parliamentary unions in Africa, the Arab world, Latin America and the Caribbean, the participants in the “South-South” Parliamentary Dialogue Forum, which was organized, under the supreme patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, by the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco, headed by H. E Na'am Mayara, Chairman of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), on 4-5 March 2022, in the capital, Rabat,

Highly appreciating and valuing the pioneering role played by the Kingdom of Morocco, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, in launching and supporting all development and solidarity initiatives aimed at supporting south-south cooperation; expressing our great gratitude for the warm welcome we received in the highly endowed Kingdom, and deeply commending the House of Councilors for the kind invitation and impressive organization of the activities of this forum;

Appreciating the summaries of all the interventions and discussions by the heads and representatives of the Senates, Shoora, equivalent councils and the regional parliamentary unions in Africa, the Arab world, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the studies and reports presented at the Forum, especially those related to the role of Senates, Shoora, and equivalent councils in promoting South-South cooperation, the reality and prospects for trade exchanges and economic relations between Africa and the Arab world, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the role of these parliaments and parliamentary unions in advocating for climate justice and global health;



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Assuming our role in contributing to formulating opinions, proposing legislative measures and submitting recommendations to the summits of leaders of countries, institutions, bodies and African, Arab and Latin American governmental conferences on various issues, especially those related to achieving the sustainable development goals;

Recalling the founding principles of the Abuja Summit of leaders and heads of state and government of Africa and South America held in Nigeria in 2006, which affirmed the importance of this cooperation that brings together African and South American members of the United Nations, principles that were adhered to during the summits of Margarita Island in Venezuela in 2009 and the Summit of Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in 2013, in addition to the positions and commitments demonstrated by the leaders and heads of state and government of countries in the Arab world and South America during the summits held in the Brazilian capital, Brasilia in 2005, the Qatari capital , Doha in 2009, the Peruvian capital , Lima in 2012 and Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia in 2015;

We do hereby express and call for the following:

-Expressing immense gratitude to scientists, doctors, experts and medical staff for their huge sacrifices in order for humanity to triumph over this unprecedented pandemic, and for the tremendous efforts to ensure collective immunity through antiviral vaccines, as well as scientific research that enabled an optimal understanding of the emerging corona virus and its variants, which in turn enabled the development of effective treatment protocols and more effective medicines;

- Confirming that the phase of economic and social recovery from the unprecedented repercussions and effects of the Corona pandemic, brings a set of major challenges, mainly those related to the necessity of maturing the conditions for the emergence of a new generation of economic and social rights and strengthening the food, health energy and sovereignty of countries, as well as building a new global system of cooperation based on fair and equitable foundations for all countries of the world, foremost among them are the countries of the South, where we call on the international community to urgently engage in boosting confidence in terms of



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global development cooperation, strengthening international solidarity, rehabilitating the mechanisms of investment flows in the countries of the South, and bringing productive wealth-creating chains closer to sources of raw materials as essential steps to ensure a just, equitable and sustainable recovery and reduce the economic gap with the Nordic countries;

- Inviting our nations and countries of the South in general to redefine their economic priorities in order to create conducive conditions for realizing this common dream and establishing positive posturing in the post-Covid 19 global economic map, through:
- Intensifying efforts in order to succeed in entering the Fourth Industrial Revolution, by rehabilitating the industrial, training and service sectors, so as to benefit from the great capabilities of our youth for creativity and innovation, and to enhance the creation of wealth and opportunities through innovative emerging enterprises;
- Establishing sectoral funds to finance development projects in the economic sphere in Africa, the Arab world and Latin America, as well as facilitating the financing of contracting and joint investments in the industrial, agricultural and service fields, as a prelude to developing a “comprehensive take-off agenda” with goals and indicators that contribute to achieving robust economic integration;
- Reinforcing confidence in the itineraries of global development cooperation through deep reforms to the mechanisms of multilateral trade and economic cooperation;
- Strengthening international solidarity, rehabilitating the mechanisms of investment flows in the countries of the South, and bringing the wealth-creating production chains closer to the sources of raw materials, especially in the African, Arab, Latin American geo-economic space in which global resources and raw materials are concentrated;
- Strengthening the coordination of the countries of the South to jointly advocate the reforming of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in order to defend commercial interests at the parliamentary, governmental and international levels;



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- Practical reform of international financing mechanisms and ensuring special treatment with the countries of the South according to their economic and social peculiarities, as well as the creation of a global fund, to which major countries, multinational companies and investment banks (CIBs) contribute in order to keep pace with the recovery of the countries of the South from the consequences of the pandemic, and to finance the strategies of enhancing strategic security at energy, health and food levels;

-Strengthening the logistical bond between our countries at the sea and air levels to facilitate the exchange of goods and enhance international trade flows between Africa, the Arab world and Latin America, as well as encouraging the integration of regional value chains and strengthening financing for supporting the joint indigenization of activities creating value-added and job opportunities;

- Working on preparing a practical strategy in the future, to reduce customs restrictions and facilitate their procedures in order to encourage trade exchange;
- Strengthening coordination, cooperation, and South-South solidarity between Africa ,the Arab world, Latin America, and the Caribbean at the bilateral levels, boosting regional integration mechanisms, ways of intra-cooperation, especially on the spheres related to ensuring sovereignty, food, energy and health security, economic exchange and sustainable development, and sustained coordination through permanent institutional channels;
- Building joint, beneficial partnerships , launching dynamics of human and social development projects by expediting the formulation of cooperation strategies based on the values of solidarity, justice and common interests;
- Enhancing joint action among governments, parliaments and the private sector through a plethora of coordinated and harmonized efforts to deal with the issue of food security as an essentially strategic interlude to a promising cooperation between the two regions in a way closely related to the Sustainable Development Goals and fighting climate change,



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- Adopting effective, sustainable mechanisms to eradicate famine, ensure food security and improved nutrition , upgrade agriculture, encourage scientific research centers on food production, and develop sustainable and climate change-sensitive agricultural methods so as to overcome the impacts of climate change, desertification, rain water scarcity, and other climatic factors;
- Creating a “parliamentary mechanism for cooperation and economic integration” consisting of representatives of regional and continental parliaments that enables the promotion of legislative innovation at the levels of enhancing South-South cooperation and strengthening the exchange of best practices between our parliamentary institutions, in addition to working in a practical and rapid manner to present an “integrated roadmap proposal for joint cooperation” to the summits of leaders of countries, institutions, bodies and intergovernmental conferences of African, Arab and Latin American countries.
- Strengthening the action of governments and parliaments to support and enhance the work of UN international agencies, such as FAO, IFAD, WHO and WFP, in association with all countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Regarding the issues related to migration and displacement, the participants stress the need to adhere to the spirit of the Global Compact for Migration that was adopted on the Intergovernmental Conference held in Marrakesh in December 2018, especially the items related to the need to reduce the negative factors that prevent citizens from living dignified in their countries of origin, and to mitigate the risks that the migrants face on their way to the countries of migration through respecting their human rights , providing the necessary care for them, and creating conditions that enable all migrants to enrich societies through their human, economic and social capabilities, and integrating them to drive development at the local, national, regional and global levels ; this entails



confronting disinformation , renouncing violence and hate speech in relation to immigration issues.

- Boosting the business of Arab, African and Latino parliaments, particularly Senates, and equivalent Councils with their various components and competencies, with the goal of bolstering their oversight over government performance, and their commitment to fulfilling national and international obligations , and assuming their role in enacting legislation in such a manner that underpins economic and trade cooperation between Africa, the Arab world, Latin America, and South countries in general;
- Concerning the Palestinian issue, we stress the geo-strategic importance and necessity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and peace initiatives aimed at establishing the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital on the 1967 borders.
- Regarding the situation in Ukraine, we join our voice to the inter-parliamentary system by affirming our adherence to the invariable importance of the principles of the 2019 Belgrade Declaration on “Strengthening International Law: Parliamentary Roles and Mechanisms, and Contribution to Regional Cooperation”, endorsed at the 141st session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Serbia ,whereas, the members of the Union endorsed “supporting the international efforts for peace, and emphasizing that international law is the cornerstone of a world order based on solidarity and cooperation and addressing differences and resolving conflicts on the basis of international law. Accordingly, we express in this regard our readiness as national parliaments and regional unions in Africa, the Arab world, Latin America and the Caribbean to contribute to all diplomatic efforts at the parliamentary level in order to find an urgent peaceful solution to this crisis.



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- The participants affirm their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and refusing to link it to any religion, culture or race, while emphasizing the need for concerted regional and international efforts to ensure a stable world free from terrorism and the dangers posed by wars, separatism and nuclear proliferation. The participants affirm that any interference in the sovereignty and internal affairs of states is considered a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principle of good neighborliness, stressing the importance of respecting the sovereignty of states, their territorial integrity and resolving disputes by peaceful means.

For the purpose of activating these recommendations , the participants to this forum entrusted the chairmanship of the House of Councilors of Morocco to ensure the establishment of a General Secretariat to coordinate with the Senates, Shoora and equivalent Councils and intercontinental and regional parliamentary unions in Africa, Arab World, Latin America and the Caribbean in order to embarking on the fulfillment of such recommendations and ensuring the continuation of such parliamentary dialogue through permanent institutional mechanisms considering its importance in exploring ways and means of regional integration and strengthening South-South cooperation, in line with a strategic, participatory, integrated and solidarity and developmental perspective, based on strengthening the fabric of economic and commercial interests and humanitarian ties between Arab and African countries and the Latin American and the Caribbean regions, and as a mechanism for parliamentary advocacy on common issues, confronting the challenges, and making the voice of the peoples of the South heard in various international forums.

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 4 March 2022