



Final Declaration of the Parliamentary Conference on South-South Cooperation

We, the Speakers and Representatives of the Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Councils, and Regional and Continental Parliamentary Unions in Africa, the Arab World, and Latin America and the Caribbean, have convened in Rabat, on February 15 and 16, 2024, at the "*Parliamentary Conference on South-South Cooperation*", organized under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, by the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco, chaired by His Excellency Mr. Enaam MAYARA, President of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA).

Appreciating and highly 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 strengthening South-South Cooperation. We deeply acknowledge the warm hospitality extended to us by the kingdom of Morocco and highly commend the House of Councillors for both honouring us with their invitation and well organizing the Conference sessions.

Acknowledging and expressing our support the outcome of all the interventions and discussions held by the Speakers and Representatives of the Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Councils, and Regional and Continental Parliamentary Unions, as well as the contributions and presentations delivered under the different themes of the Conference, with particular reference to those related to reinforcing political dialogue and regional security in Africa, the Arab world and the Latin American region.



Also noteworthy are those underlining the importance of policies linked to strengthening strategic partnerships, promoting investment, technology, and infrastructure, and improving competitiveness, with the aim of achieving peace, stability, and prosperity, and fostering economic transformation, regional integration, and common development.

Fulfilling out our role as Parliamentarians, which consists of contributing to the elaboration of positions, proposing legislative measures, and delivering recommendations to the Leaders' Summits, Institutions, Instances and Conferences in Africa, the Arab World and Latin American, regarding the various issues included in our agenda.

Recalling the founding principles of the Abuja Summit of Leaders and Heads of State and Government of Africa and South America (ASA), held in Nigeria in 2006. These principles were further reaffirmed at the two Summits held respectively in Margarita Island, Venezuela in 2009 and Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in 2013, as well as the positions and commitments taken by the Leaders and Heads of State and Government of the Arab World and South America at the ASPA Summits held in Brasilia, Brazil, in 2005; in Doha, Qatar, in 2009; in Lima, Peru, in 2012; and in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2015.

We hereby express and call for the following:

- **Commending and welcoming** the International Initiative of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** aimed at promoting access of Sahel countries to the Atlantic Ocean, and emphasizing the urgent need to address the substantial deficit in infrastructure and investment in the Atlantic region of Africa, and **highlighting** that this Initiative,



- designed to establish a robust institutional framework encompassing the 23 countries of the continent bordering the Atlantic Ocean, will position Morocco's Atlantic coast as a pivotal hub for bolstering logistical connectivity among our nations by both maritime and aerial routes, which will facilitate the exchange of goods, stimulate investment flows in the South, and significantly shorten the distance between wealth-generating production chains and the sources of raw materials, particularly in the geo-economic areas of Africa, the Arab world, and the Americas where global resources and raw materials are concentrated;
- **Calling** for such initiatives to serve as catalysts for strengthening South-South coordination, cooperation, and solidarity, not only bilaterally among the countries of Africa, the Arab world, Latin America, and the Caribbean, but also in promoting regional integration mechanisms and intra-regional cooperation, focusing particularly on areas crucial for ensuring sovereignty, food, energy, and health security, fostering economic exchange, sustainable development, and maintaining continuous coordination and consultation through permanent institutional channels;
- **Emphasizing** that the current major challenges facing humanity necessitate the establishment of a new global order of cooperation founded on principles of justice and equity for all nations, especially those in the Global South. In light of this, we call on the international community to promptly bolster confidence in global development cooperation pathways and to enhance international solidarity, with the aim of facilitating a significant developmental shift in countries of the South and narrowing the economic gap with the countries of the North;



- **Reaffirming** the relevance for concerted efforts by all nations to foster global stability across its myriad dimensions as the cornerstone for enduring peace; underscoring the necessity for concerted regional and international endeavors aimed at ensuring a stable world free from the specter of conflict and separatist inclinations; underscoring also that any meddling in the internal affairs of states constitutes a breach of the United Nations Charter and the principle of good neighborliness; stressing the paramount importance of upholding the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of nations, as well as the need for peaceful means for conflict resolution;

-In the same regard, the war and the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza were condemned and the international community called upon to stop it immediately in accordance with international law, to spare the blood of innocent people and to ensure international stability and peace;

- **Emphasizing** the need of reinforcing the endeavors of Arab, African, and Latin American Parliaments, including Senates and Equivalent Councils, owing to their pluralistic structures and enriched compositions, with the aim of bolstering their oversight of governmental actions and assessing their commitment to fulfilling both national and international obligations, as well as assuming their role in enacting legislation conducive to fostering economic and commercial collaboration among Africa, the Arab world, Latin America, and other southern nations;

Acknowledging the initiatives undertaken by the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco to pursue this parliamentary dialogue and further institutionalize it through enduring mechanisms, given its importance in exploring pathways and prospects of regional integration and strengthening South-South cooperation,



underpinned by a strategic, participatory, complementary, and solidarity-based developmental approach. This perspective aims to enhance economic, commercial interests, and human bonds among African, Arab, Latin American, and Caribbean nations, while providing a platform for parliamentary advocacy on common issues, with a view to face the emerging challenges and to give voice to the people of the South in various international forums.

The participants in this Forum entrust **the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco**, in its capacity as the institution hosting the Secretariat of the Forum in accordance with the Declaration of "**Rabat as Capital of South-South Cooperation**" issued at the First Forum on South-South Cooperation on 4 and 5 March 2022, in coordination with the Senate, Shoora, and Equivalent Councils, and Regional and Continental Parliamentary Unions in Africa, the Arab World, and Latin America and the Caribbean, to explore ways to ensure the regularity of this forum and make it a solid and credible platform for open access and cooperation between African, Arab and Latin-American countries.

**Done in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, on 16 February 2024,
corresponding to 06 Shaaban 1445**

